Thursday
2nd September, 1948

THE
CONSTITUENT ASSEMBLY OF INDIA (LEGISLATIVE) DEBATES

(PART I—QUESTIONS AND ANSWERS)

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CONSTITUENT ASSEMBLY OF INDIA (LEGISLATIVE) DEBATES

PART I—QUESTIONS AND ANSWERS

Thursday, 2nd September, 1948

The Assembly met in the Assembly Chamber of the Council House at a Quarter to Eleven of the Clock; Mr. Speaker (The Honourable Mr. G. V. Mavalankar) in the Chair.

STARRED QUESTIONS AND ANSWERS

(a) ORAL ANSWERS

PAYMENT OF CASH IN LIEU OF RATIONS TO REFUGEES IN CAMPS

783. *Mr. B. K. Sidhva: (a) Will the Honourable Miniater of Relief and Rehabilitation be pleased to state whether it is fact that in aome of the refugee camps, run either by Provincial or Central Governments, cash is paid to refugees instead of ration being given?

(b) If ao, what are the places where caah is given in lieu of ration?

(c) Do Government propose to adopt the caah payment system at all centres?

The Honourable Shri Mohan Lal Saksena: (a) Yes, caah is paid to refugees in certain camps run by Provincial Governments and States, but not in camps run by Central Government.

(b) A statement showing places where cash is paid in lieu of ration is laid on the table.

(c) So far as the camps run by the Central Government are concerned the question is under consideration.

Statement

showing places where cash is paid to refugees in lieu of ration

United Provinces:

1. Dehra Dun.
2. Saharanpur
3. Muzaffarnagar.
4. Banaras.
5. Gorakhpur
6. Allahabad
7. Kanpur.
8. Mirzapur.
9. Lucknow
10. Fyzabad
11. Meerut

Orissa:

1. Cuttack

Saurashtra:

1. Jamnagar.
2. Bhavnagar.
3. Palitana.
4. Chela.
5. Bantra.

Madhya Pradesh

1. Gwalior.
2. Ujjain.
3. Mandsaur.

Matsya Union:

1. Bharatpur.
2. Dig.
3. Bayana.
4. Rupbas.
5. Nadbai
6. Kunhar.

West Bengal:

1. Bahir Sura Road, Calcutta.
2. 55. Harish Chatterjee, Calcutta
3. 65, Rest Camp, Howrah.
4. Belur, Howrah.
5. Munshirhat, Howrah
6. Bhadrakali.
7. Konnagar.
8. Ghuskara.

West Bengal—contd.

9. Nimdanga.
10. Kendulia
11. Chanda.
12. Miore.
13. Basudevpur.
14. Digree.
15. Santoshpur.
16. Baigachi.Joigachi.
17. Bongaon.
18. Patabuka.
19. Halisahar.
20. Sasaikpur.
21. Diamond Harbour.
22. Jalpaiguri. Batiagola.
23. Saldanga Jutegola.
24. Pandapara.
25. Phatapukuri.
26. Balakoba.
27. Alipur Duar.
28. Dhubulia.

Madras:

1. Avadi.
2. Saidapet.
3. Kilpauk.

Mysore State:

1. Bangalore.

Mr. R. K. Sidhva: Arising out of the answer to part (a) of the question, may I know whether the Government feel that administratively the cash system is more efficient than the present system of rations?

The Honourable Shri Mohan Lal Saksena: It is very difficult to say, because there is room for corruption there as well and perhaps there is more room.

Mr. R. K. Sidhva: Is it a fact that even some of the provincial governments feel that the cash system is more desirable than the ration system to avoid corruption?

The Honourable Shri Mohan Lal Saksena: I do not know. It may be simply with a view to avoid difficulty so far as administration is concerned.

Mr. R. K. Sidhva: Is it not a fact that the attention of the Government has been drawn to a considerable amount of leakage and that the refugees do not receive the quantity and quality of rations that they are entitled to, whereas by way of the cash system the refugee will receive the sum prescribed with which he can purchase his rations from cheap-price shops?

The Honourable Shri Mohan Lal Saksena: Even in those places where the cash system is prevailing I have seen representations that the ration system should be introduced. I do not agree with the viewpoint of the honourable member.

Mr. R. K. Sidhva: From which place has the Honourable Minister received such representation?

The Honourable Shri Mohan Lal Saksena: I know that in places where there is no ration system the prices of foodstuffs have gone up with the result that there has been representation that the ration system should be introduced.

Shri H. V. Kamath: Is it a fact that in most of the refugee camps run by the Central Government the diet given to the refugees is inferior both in quality as well as quantity to what is given to C. Class prisoners in jails?

The Honourable Shri Mohan Lal Saksena: The ration is the same as prescribed for the ordinary citizen.

Shri H. V. Kamath: What is the scale of ration given to the refugees in camps?

The Honourable Shri Mohan Lal Saksena: It is the same as prescribed for the citizens of Delhi.

Shri Mihir Lal Chattopadhyay: How much does it come to?

The Honourable Shri Mohan Lal Saksena: The honourable member must know.

Dr. P. S. Deshmukh: Who has prescribed the rations for the citizens of Delhi?

The Honourable Shri Mohan Lal Saksena: The Local Government must have done it.

MINING RIGHTS TO AMERICAN FIRM IN NEPAL

734. **Shri Mahavir Tyagi:** (a) Will the Honourable Minister of Works, Mines and Power be pleased to state whether Government are aware of the rich mines of cobalt, nickel, copper, zinc and lead which exist unexplored in the Nepal territory?

(b) Are Government aware of the recent agreement between the Government of Nepal and an American firm whereby the latter have been granted a lease of 30 years to exploit minerals from a portion of Nepal territory?

(c) Did Government make any attempts to negotiate and secure any mining rights for the Union?

(d) Is it a fact that before granting the above mentioned lease to Americans the Government of Nepal had expressed their willingness to give India preference over other countries?

The Honourable Shri N. V. Gadgil: (a) It is said that some such mines are in existence.

(b) Government have no information.

(c) No.

(d) No.

Prof. N. G. Ranga: Will Government make enquiries and see whether they will themselves be able to exploit some of those minerals instead of allowing foreigners to exploit them?

The Honourable Shri N. V. Gadgil: Government will make enquiries but the territory belongs to a foreign country.

Prof. N. G. Ranga: Just as people from outside have succeeded in negotiating with the Nepalese Government to get those mineral rights, would it not be possible for our Government to do the same?

The Honourable Shri N. V. Gadgil: The information that others have succeeded is not correct: but the other point will be kept in mind.

Shri Mahavir Tyagi: May I know whether any experts were deputed by the Government of India during the last war to investigate into the potentialities of mineral deposits in Nepal?

The Honourable Shri N. V. Gadgil: I have no information immediately which I can supply to the honourable member but I can make enquiries.

Shri Mahavir Tyagi: Is it a fact that a German Doctor, Dr. Felohner, who was prospecting in Nepal during the war, was detained by the Government and his magnetic instruments were seized?

The Honourable Shri N. V. Gadgil: I require notice of that.

Prof. Shibban Lal Saksena: With regard to part (b) of the question. I am not clear whether the honourable member said that there was no such agreement entered into or that Government was not aware of any?

The Honourable Shri N. V. Gadgil: To the extent to which information is available no such agreement has taken place.

Prof. Shibban Lal Saksena: Is it possible for a foreign government to come and make an agreement with Nepal without the knowledge of the Government of India?

The Honourable Shri N. V. Gadgil: It is possible.

Prof. Shibban Lal Saksena: Will the Government see that their information is kept up to date and see to it that. . .

Mr. Speaker: Order, order.

Shri Mahavir Tyagi: Is it a fact that the Honourable Minister himself promised Mr. Sharma of the Indian National Mining and Trading Company to afford him all facilities of expert advice?

The Honourable Shri N. V. Gadgil: That forms part of the next question and when it is asked I shall reply.

MINING LEASE TO MR. L. P. SHARMA BY NEPAL

735. **Shri Mahavir Tyagi:** (a) Will the Honourable Minister of Works, Mines and Power be pleased to state whether it is a fact that Mr. L. P. Sharma of the National Mining and Trading Company of India had secured for his Company a long lease in respect of 80,000 sq. miles of Nepal territory for mining nickel and cobalt in the year 1984?

(b) Is it also a fact that during the last war, the Government of India exerted pressure on Mr. L. P. Sharma to get the aforementioned lease transferred in their favour, and on his refusing to do so, he was detained in jail and the Nepal Government was approached to get the said lease for mining cancelled?

(c) Are Government aware that the Government of Nepal have again favoured Mr. Sharma by reviving his old lease?

(d) Has Mr. Sharma approached the Ministry of Works, Mines and Power for technical help and guidance in exploiting these mines?

The Honourable Shri N. V. Gadgil: (a) It is understood that the National Mining and Trading Company Ltd., Bombay, of which Mr. L. P. Sharma is said to be Managing Director, obtained a lease to work the cobalt mines in western Nepal in 1934. No information is available about the area and duration of the lease.

(b) The answer is in the negative.

(c) The Government of India are not aware of the old lease being revived by the Nepal Government. But it is understood that Mr. Sharma has obtained a prospecting licence from the Government of Nepal to prospect for cobalt and nickel in two districts of Nepal.

(d) Yes.

Shri Mahavir Tyagi: Is it a fact that Dr. Flecher in his report said that there were deposits of coal, iron and petrol in that territory?

The Honourable Shri N. V. Gadgil: That is true.

Shri Mahavir Tyagi: Is it a fact that the Honourable Minister at first ordered his experts to proceed to Nepal but afterwards this order was withdrawn?

The Honourable Shri N. V. Gadgil: That is not exactly the situation. The promise of putting experts at the service of the gentleman concerned was conditioned on his payment of sufficient finances to finance the business and secondly that the request should come to the Government of India through the Nepal Government. Both these conditions were not satisfied. If they are satisfied the matter will be given consideration.

Shri Mahavir Tyagi: Did the Managing Director of this company apply to the Government for financial and expert aid for exploiting the minerals of Nepal?

The Honourable Shri N. V. Gadgil: As I have already said if these two conditions are satisfied the Government of India will be willing to give such assistance as they can.

Prof. Shibban Lal Saksena: In view of the fact that this company has got a lease there and the directors of the company are distinguished Indian Nationals, will not the Government see that they are given facilities to exploit these minerals?

The Honourable Shri N. V. Gadgil: That will be borne in mind.

RENT OF HOUSES REQUISITIONED

736. ***Mr. R. K. Sidhva:** (a) Will the Honourable Minister of Works, Mines and Power be pleased to state the number of houses in each city in India requisitioned up to date by the Central Government?

(b) How many houses have been released during the period from August, 1947 to June, 1948?

(c) How many new houses have been requisitioned during this year up to 30th June?

(d) What is the total rent paid by Government? How much of the said rent was recovered from tenants and how much was borne by Government during the years 1943, 1944, 1945, 1946, 1947 and upto 30th June, 1948 each year separately?

The Honourable Shri N. V. Gadgil: (a) The number of houses in Delhi requisitioned by the Central Government and by the Delhi Administration are 402 and 70 respectively. As regards the other cities in India, buildings have been requisitioned by the Provincial Governments concerned and not by the Central Government.

(b) Central Government—33.
Delhi Administration—Nil.

(c) Central Government—11.
Delhi Administration—15.

(d) A statement of rent, paid by the Central Government is placed on the table of the House. Similar information relating to Delhi Administration is not readily available.

Statement

of rent paid by the Central Government in respect of requisitioned buildings in Delhi

Year	Rent paid by Government	Rent recovered from tenants	Amount borne by Government
	Rs.	Rs.	Rs.
1943-44	3,32,611 0 0	2,07,383 12 0	1,25,227 4 0
1944-45	9,75,079 7 6	4,95,455 7 0	4,79,624 0 6
1945-46	6,41,748 12 3	4,82,902 10 0	1,58,846 2 3
1946-47	5,79,628 4 3	4,54,104 14 0	1,25,523 6 3
1947-48	8,86,067 0 0	4,65,832 12 0	4,22,234 4 0
1.4.48 to 30.6.48	79,910 4 0	80,706 6 0	..

Mr. R. K. Sidhva: May I know whether the provincial government does not requisition houses for the Central Government?

The Honourable Shri N. V. Gadgil: They do when they are required to do so.

Mr. R. K. Sidhva: The answer was given to me by the Honourable Minister that the provincial governments do not requisition for the Central Government. Is it not a fact that the Provincial Governments do requisition houses for the Central Government through their estate officers?

The Honourable Shri N. V. Gadgil: Even then the requisitioning agency is the Provincial Government and not the Central Goverument.

Mr. R. K. Sidhva: Is it not a fact that for the officers of the Central Government the Provincial Government through their estate officer requisition houses?

The Honourable Shri N. V. Gadgil: My previous answer covers that point also.

EXCHANGE OF PROPERTIES BETWEEN INDIA AND PAKISTAN

737. *Mr. R. K. Sidhva: (a) Will the Honourable Minister Without Portfolio be pleased to state whether in the recent Inter-Dominion Conference, the question of exchange of properties between the two Dominions was considered?

(b) If so, what are the conditions under which the agreement has been arrived at?

(c) Has Sind been included within the scope of the agreement?

(d) If not, why not?

The Honourable Shri N. Gopalaswami Ayyangar: (a) At the Inter-Dominion Conference on 22nd July, 1948, the question of evacuee property in both Dominions was discussed. The discussion covered both movable and immovable property. No definite agreement was possible in regard to immovable property, rural or urban. Agreement was reached regarding movable property and certain other matters connected with immovable property.

(b) A copy of the Press Communique issued on 25th August, 1948, regarding movable evacuee property is placed on the table.

Regarding immovable property it was decided to set up Joint Agencies for the following purposes: (i) to supervise the copying and exchange of records relating to agricultural property, (ii) to associate with the Custodian of Evacuee property in each Dominion officers of the other to ensure proper management of that property, and the remittance of income collected to evacuee owners, and (iii) to prepare lists of owners of evacuee urban immovable property and to carry out its valuation.

The details of an organisation to be responsible for all these items of work were prepared during the meeting of the Joint Rehabilitation Board and our proposals were communicated to Pakistan. The Pakistan Government has agreed to accept our proposed organisation and it is expected that a nucleus staff will be functioning in Pakistan from the first half of September, 1948.

(c) Yes.

(d) Does not arise.

PRESS INFORMATION BUREAU

GOVERNMENT OF INDIA

PRESS NOTE

Agreement on Movable Evacuee Property Machinery to be set up immediately

Agreement has been reached between the Governments of India and Pakistan over the removal and disposal of evacuee movable property. Immediate steps are being taken to set up the necessary machinery for this purpose.

The agreement envisages the setting up of a Joint Government Agency on which the two Dominions will enjoy equal representation. Subject to availability of transport and police protection, it will be the function of this Agency:

(a) to supervise the working of the agreed arrangements in regard to movable evacuee property and in particular to assist evacuee owners in the expeditious disposal of their applications to the Custodian of Evacuee Property in each Dominion or their requests for help for police protection or special transport facilities;

(b) to set-up an organisation for facilitating movement by rail or road (this organisation will run its own trucks and secure special booking facilities and, wherever possible and necessary, run special goods trains for the movement of movable evacuee property);

(c) to receive complaints and arrange for the redress of grievances of evacuees in the disposal or transport of their movables.

The area covered by the agreement will be:

In *Pakistan*.—West Punjab, Sind, North-West Frontier Province and Baluchistan and the States of Bahawalpur and Khairpur (N.W.F.P., and Baluchistan will include States which have acceded to Pakistan, but will exclude Unadministered Agency Areas).

India.—East Punjab, Delhi, all the States formerly known as the East Punjab States, Bikaner, Ajmer-Merwara, the Matsya Union, the Rajasthan Union, Saurashtra, Jaipur, Jodhpur and the western districts of the United Provinces (which shall in any case include the districts of Saharanpur, Dehra Dun, Meerut and Muzaffarnagar).

As soon as the necessary organisation comes into existence the details of the procedure to be adopted by evacuees for submitting their applications will be announced

Ministry Without Portfolio.
New Delhi, August 26, 1948.

Mr. R. K. Sidhva: May I know whether a Custodian of Evacuee Property has been appointed in Sind?

The Honourable Shri N. Gopalaswami Ayyangar: I have already informed the House on a previous occasion that no person has been formally appointed yet, because the Ordinance providing for the appointment of such a person has not yet been promulgated there.

Mr. R. K. Sidhva: Was that question taken up during the Conference that took place?

The Honourable Shri N. Gopalaswami Ayyangar: Not at this Conference; but we certainly have been taking it up time after time with the Pakistan Government, and have been asking our High Commissioner to see that this matter is expedited.

Mr. R. K. Sidhva: What is the difficulty in not coming to a decision in this matter?

The Honourable Shri N. Gopalaswami Ayyangar: I do not know. I think the honourable member must ask the Governor General of Pakistan.

Sardar Hukam Singh: Is it proposed that this joint agency would evaluate the agricultural properties of both the Dominions and that each Dominion shall take over the other's property on the value assessed?

The Honourable Shri N. Gopalaswami Ayyangar: It is certainly intended that the rural property should be evaluated by this Agency. The question as to whether there will be an agreement between the two Governments by which one Government has to pay the difference between the two valuations to the other Government, is one which will be settled only at a future conference.

Sardar Hukam Singh: Is it a fact that the urban property is not being evaluated on the same lines, and if so will the Government set up an agency for that purpose also?

The Honourable Shri N. Gopalaswami Ayyangar: I think we are setting up a Joint Agency for the valuation of urban property as well

Prof. Shibban Lal Saksena: What is the total value of the claims of refugees who say that they have left their properties in Pakistan?

The Honourable Shri N. Gopalaswami Ayyangar: That is rather a difficult question to answer. I have been told that the claims preferred in Delhi alone go up over Rs. 700 crores.

Mr. Tajamul Husain: Will Government be pleased to inform the House whether the Custodian of Evacuee Property in Delhi will give all facilities for the exchange of property between properties in Pakistan and properties in Delhi?

The Honourable Shri N. Gopalaswami Ayyangar: I do not know what the honourable member means by giving 'facilities' for exchange. I do not think it is a normal function of the Custodian to arrange for such exchanges himself.

Prof. Shibban Lal Saksena: I could not follow the answer of the Honourable Minister to my question. He said that those in Delhi alone have preferred claims for Rs. 700 crores. Does he mean all those who have been registered here or people living in Delhi?

The Honourable Shri N. Gopalaswami Ayyangar: I think those who have registered in Delhi.

Prof. Shibban Lal Saksena: Can he give us some idea of the amount of claims preferred by all the people who have come from Pakistan?

The Honourable Shri N. Gopalaswami Ayyangar: I am afraid I am not in a position to give that information.

Shri Mahavir Tyagi: Has any agreement also been arrived at between the two Dominions in respect of the monthly incomes of rent that accrue from these properties for the interim period, so long as the properties are not actually exchanged?

The Honourable Shri N. Gopalaswami Ayyangar: It is for tackling that problem that this agreement of setting up Joint Agencies has been arrived at. The people in charge of the evacuated property in each Dominion will have an Officer of the other Dominion associated with them. The receipt of income from such property will be watched by this Joint Agency. And wherever possible, arrangements will be made for the remittance periodically of so much of income as it is possible to remit to the owners in the other Dominion.

Shri Mahavir Tyagi: Have the Dominions taken the responsibility of paying the rental value every month to the other Dominion, or is it from the tenants that the money will be realised?

The Honourable Shri N. Gopalaswami Ayyangar: I do not think that the Dominion Governments have undertaken that responsibility. It is only where income is actually realised from people who are in occupation of that property that, after deducting expenses, whatever remains will be attempted to be remitted over to the owners in the other Dominion.

Mr. Tajamul Husain: Will the Honourable Minister be pleased to state if it is a fact that when an exchange has been made between property in Pakistan and in Delhi, the Custodian of Evacuee Property does not recognize the exchange and does not grant sanction to it with the result that the people coming from Pakistan who want to take the property in Delhi are unable to do so?

The Honourable Shri N. Gopalaswami Ayyangar: I am afraid I have no information on that point. But if the honourable member requires a definite answer to that question he ought to address it to my honourable colleague the Minister for Relief and Rehabilitation.

Dr. B. V. Keskar: May I know what precautions the Government proposes to take, in view of the history of the past twelve months, to see that Pakistan carries out all the agreements that we enter into with regard to exchange of property?

The Honourable Shri N. Gopalaswami Ayyangar: We will use to the maximum such good offices as we are able to exercise on the Government of Pakistan and see that they implement what they undertake.

Prof. Shibban Lal Saksena: What is the total number of the claims whose value has reached Rs. 700 crores?

The Honourable Shri N. Gopalaswami Ayyangar: I am afraid I must ask for notice of that question.

PRODUCTION AND EXPORT OF MANGANESE ORE

738. *Mr. R. K. Sidhva: Will the Honourable Minister of Commerce be pleased to state:

(a) the quantity and value of manganese produced in India and the quantity exported to foreign countries during the years 1945, 1946 and 1947;

(b) at what average price it is sold in foreign countries; and

(c) whether Government propose to stop the export of this metal to encourage the manufacture of steel and iron in this country?

The Honourable Shri K. C. Neogy: (a) and (b). Sir, I lay on the table a statement giving the required information.

(c) The mineral is available in appreciable quantities in this country and it is doubtful whether a ban on exports will directly lead to an increase in the production of steel and iron in India. Government have however decided to control its exports with a view to conserving this valuable mineral for the future needs of the country.

Statement

(a) Quantity and value of Manganese ore produced in India and the quantity exported to foreign countries during 1945, 1946 and 1947.

	Quantity (tons)	Value (Rs. f. o. b.)	Exports (tons)
1945	210,583	48,20,332	171.276
1946	252,916	55,21,081	434.000
1947	393.178	86.49.850	422.[illegible]0
	(app.)	(app.)	(app.). (Jan. to Oct.)

(Figures of exports upto July 1947 relate to British India before partition. The figures for the subsequent months exclude the trade of Sind from the 1st August 1947, and that of the port of Chittagong from the 15th of that month. They also exclude the Seaborne Trade of India with Pakistan Dominion).

(b) *C. I. F. value per ton at U. K. ports during the years 1945 and 1946.*

£2.18.4 per ton for 1st grade	50 per cent.
£2-16-0 per ton for 1st grade	48 per cent.
£2- 5-0 per ton for 2nd grade	45 per cent.
£2- 0.0 per ton for 2nd grade	40 per cent.

Mr. R. K. Sidhva: May I know the total production of manganese in India?

The Honourable Shri K. C. Neogy: I am afraid I have no knowledge about it. As a matter of fact my honourable colleague to my left (The Honourable Shri N. V. Gadgil) is in-charge of that subject.

Mr. R. K. Sidhva: May I know whether all that is produced is exported?

The Honourable Shri K. C. Neogy: Certainly not.

Mr. R. K. Sidhva: What quantity is left over for consumption in India?

The Honourable Shri K. C. Neogy: I am afraid I am concerned only with the export of this commodity. I can give my honourable friend the figure of export—and that is in the neighbourhood of 4 lakhs of tons annually.

Mr. R. K. Sidhva: May I know the export price of this manganese?

The Honourable Shri K. C. Neogy: The price varies from time to time. During the last few months I understand the price varied between Rs. 38 and 52 per ton, for shipment from Vizag port.

Seth Govind Das: Is it not a fact that most of the manganese that is exported from India is from the Central Provinces? In view of the fact that an iron and steel factory is proposed to be set up in that Province, may I know if at least the manganese of Central Provinces will not be exported?

The Honourable Shri K. C. Neogy: That question had better be addressed to my honourable colleague to my left.

Shri M. Ananthasayanam Ayyangar: May I know from the Honourable Minister how far the imposition of an export duty on manganese has affected its export?

The Honourable Shri K. C. Neogy: I do not think it has appreciably affected the export.

Shri M. Ananthasayanam Ayyangar: Has the Honourable Minister in consultation with Finance, though I know he is the Finance Minister himself, tried to find out if this export can bear a higher duty than what has been given?

The Honourable Shri K. C. Neogy: That is a separate issue altogether. It will certainly be examined if my honourable friend wants.

Mr. R. K. Sidhva: May I know the approximate date or month to which the prices quoted relate?

The Honourable Shri K. C. Neogy: I said during the last few months—that is all I can say—the price varied between Rs. 38 and Rs. 52.

Mr. R. K. Sidhva: Was it at any time Rs. 20?

The Honourable Shri K. C. Neogy: I do not think so—not in the recent past at least.

PROPERTY WITH CUSTODIAN OF EVACUEES PROPERTY, DELHI.

739. ***Shri Lakshminarayan Sahu:** (a) Will the Honourable Minister of Relief and Rehabilitation be pleased to state the calculated value of the evacuee property in charge of the Custodian, Delhi (moveable and immoveable)?

(b) What steps have been taken or are proposed to be taken to maintain such property in a proper state of repair?

(c) What arrangements have been made for the allocation of such property to refugees?

(d) What precautions have been taken, if any, to safeguard against the misuse or loss or damage of any of the moveable properties?

The Honourable Shri Mohan Lal Saksena: (a) No valuation of evacuee property (moveable or immoveable) has been made so far.

(b) The occupants of buildings which are evacuee property are permitted to inour the necessary maintenance charges and are allowed a set off against the rent from them.

(c) The partioulars of the allocation of evacuees' properties to refugees are as follows:

Rural.—Almost all the agricultural land belonging to evacuees and available for allotment has been allotted for the next two orops. The remaining land is being utilized otherwise for the rehabilitation of refugees. The plan includes the creation of new townships and the development of cottage industries.

Gardens.—All evacuees' gardens, except those under un-expired leases, have also been allotted.

Urban.—Refugees have already occupied all residential properties either unuer allotment orders issued to them or otherwise. Cases of unauthorised occupation are being reviewed. The accommodation which may be released on review will be allotted to refugees as and when available.

The same double process of allotment and review is being applied to the industrial and business premises.

(d) All evacuees' moveable property the existence of which has been discovered by or reported to the Custodian's office has been removed to and stored in the central godown and other places in the city. Some of it has been disposed of partly by auction sales and partly by restoration to the respective owners. Of the remainder nearly one half is under claims for restoration.

Shri Deshbandhu Gupta: May I know whether the Honourable Minister is aware of the fact that according to the definition of evacuee property, property belonging to Hindus and such Muslims as have not evacuated to Pakistan is also "evacuee property" because it was tenanted by evacuees and the rents of these properties are not being paid to the people to whom the property belongs? Is it not time that this property is restored to the owners or released from the list of evacuee properties since it has already been occupied by the refugees and there can be a regular connection established between the two?

Mr. Speaker: Order, order. The honourable member is not asking for any information; he is arguing and making a suggestion for action.

Shri Deshbandhu Gupta: The first part is calling for information.

Mr. Speaker: Then the honourable member should have put in only the first part.

Shri Mahavir Tyagi: Is it a fact that some of the property declared as evacuee property belongs to persons who are still in Delhi?

The Honourable Shri Mohan Lal Saksena: Yes, that is so because tenancy, under the Rent Control Act, is also considered for purposes of evacuee property. If a Muslim tenant was living in a house and he has gone to Pakistan, that House is declared as evacuee property.

I would add for the information of Mr. Deshbandhu that the Government has already ordered the payment of rents to those owners who are in India; the Government has no intention of restoring that property to the owners.

Dr. P. S. Deshmukh: Can the Honourable Minister not give us even approximately the acreage of land which is available and which has so far been made available for allocation?

The Honourable Shri Mohan Lal Saksena: That I can do in regard to Delhi if he wants.

The total land owned by Muslim evacuees is 20,888 acres. Less area of such land held by non-muslim occupancy tenants—6,000 acres. Area reserved for new townships and cottage industries—3,000 acres. Isolated plots of banjar land—1,000 acres. Reoccupied by Muslims who have returned from other parts of India—1,000 acres. Balance—7,788. Allotted—6,000. Unallotted—1,788 acres (approximately).

Sardar Hukam Singh: Is it a fact that a large number of houses are still lying vacant and unallotted in Delhi?

The Honourable Shri Mohan Lal Saksena: I am not aware of the fact that a large number is lying unallotted or vacant. But there are houses which are being occupied by certain persons and it is disputed whether they are the real owners of that property or unauthorised occupants; that is being considered.

Shri Deshbandhu Gupta: May I know whether it is a fact that the Custodian of Evacuee Properties deducts 12½ per cent on the rent realised from such property which belongs to the people of Delhi?

The Honourable Shri Mohan Lal Saksena: I am not in a position to give the exact percentage, but a certain percentage is deducted on account of charges of collection.

Shri Deshbandhu Gupta: Have Government considered the desirability of allowing these people to collect the rent charges themselves so that the Custodian's office has not to do that for them and they are saved the payment of 12½ per cent.?

The Honourable Shri Mohan Lal Saksena: They have considered that but have come to the conclusion that in such cases where Muslims are the owners and the occupants are refugees, it will not be desirable to allow them to go and collect the rent; and it is just possible they will not be able to collect any. Also, it is not desirable to make any differentiation on grounds of religion.

Shri Deshbandhu Gupta: What about the property belonging to Hindus?

The Honourable Shri Mohan Lal Saksena: That is what I said. I do not want to differentiate on that account because it is not possible to allow non-muslim owners to collect the rent while not allowing the Muslim owners to do so.

Mr. Tajamul Husain: Will the Honourable Minister please inform us as to the percentage of houses taken by the refugees without any authority, and the percentage of which they are in possession by authority?

The Honourable Shri Mohan Lal Saksena: I can give you some idea about that which is as follows:

	Houses.	Shops.	Factories
Abandoned by evacuees	19,871	4,036	459
Occupied by local persons	863	367	13
Illegally occupied by refugees	16,659	3,322	68
Number of evictions ordered	174	68	17
Number of evictions carried out	118	23	40
Number of allotments in which possession has been given to allottees.	186	337	48

Shri K. Santhanam: May I know if in view of the large number of illegal occupations, any steps are taken to legalize the illegal occupation?

The Honourable Shri Mohan Lal Saksena: Yes, I have already stated that these unauthorised occupations are being reviewed and in cases where it is found that the person occupying the shop or house, according to his former status deserves occupying that house, then that is confirmed.

Sardar Hukam Singh: Are any steps being taken to see that those houses occupied by local evacuees can be made available for the refugees?

The Honourable Shri Mohan Lal Saksena: All steps are taken, but the difficulty is that local people are not prepared to co-operate. Efforts have been made and I have addressed letters to the local organisations to co-operate and inform us about such houses, but no co-operation has been forthcoming so far.

Shri Deshbandhu Gupta: May I know the number of houses and shops belonging to non-Muslims who are residents of Delhi which fall under the evacuee's property definition?

The Honourable Shri Mohan Lal Saksena: I am afraid I shall not be able to give the information off-hand. If the honourable member would put a question or write to me a letter, I can supply him the information.

Shri Deshbandhu Gupta: Is it considerable?

The Honourable Shri Mohan Lal Saksena: Well, I do not know. I cannot say anything off-hand.

Sardar Hukam Singh: If the local people do not co-operate with the Government, would Government be allowing them to continue to occupy the houses?

The Honourable Shri Mohan Lal Saksena: No, no. You see, after all when there is such a large number of houses which are being occupied like that, the Government has got certain machinery and we are trying to administer the evacuee property. For instance, we have got 16,000 houses. We have got a lot of work in connection with that. In addition to that there are about 2,000 or 3,000 other houses which are occupied illegally. We will be taking steps later on, not just now.

Mr. Tajamul Husain: Do Government propose to evict those persons who are in possession of illegal property and then afterwards allot the property to persons who are refugees and other?

The Honourable Shri Mohan Lal Saksena: I have already said that such of the persons who are in unauthorised occupation, their cases will be considered and according to their status in Pakistan if they are considered fit to occupy that house or shop they may be confirmed; otherwise that house would be allotted to some other person and they may be allotted some other house or shop if available.

Pandit Thakur Das Bhargava: What legal and moral justification is there for the houses of non-Muslims where the tenants are also non-Muslims continuing to be occupied by the Custodian and the rent being collected by him?

The Honourable Shri Mohan Lal Saksena: I am sorry the honourable member has made a wrong assumption. I am not aware of any house which is owned by a non-Muslim and occupied by a non-Muslim which has been declared evacuee property.

RESETTLEMENT EMPLOYMENT EXCHANGE SCHEME

740. *Shri B. P. Jhunjhunwala: Will the Honourable Minister of Labour be pleased to state:

(a) when the Resettlement Employment Exchange Scheme was introduced by Government;

(b) since when it has begun operating;

(c) what was the preliminary expenditure incurred till the time when it actually began operating; and

(d) what is the annual amount which is being spent on this scheme from year to year and what is the total amount spent till June, 1948?

The Honourable Shri Jagjivan Ram: (a) The Resettlement and Employment Scheme was formulated in April, 1945.

(b) The organisation started functioning in July-August, 1945.

(c) No preliminary expenditure was incurred until the organisation started functioning.

(d) The annual amount spent on the Employment Exchanges from year to year and the total amount spent since the inception of the Employment Exchange organisation till June 1948 are as below:

	Rs.
1945-46	8,39,400
1946-47	31,91,600
1947-48	27,03,900
April to June, 1948.	8,14,300
Total	75,49,200

Shri B. P. Jhunjhunwala: Is it a fact that this scheme was taken up to resettle only those people who were employed during the war and were disbanded?

The Honourable Shri Jagjivan Ram: It was intended for the demobilised servicemen of the war.

Shri K. Santhanam: May I know whether a report containing all this information about Resettlement and Employment Exchanges was published by the Department recently?

The Honourable Shri Jagjivan Ram: Yes, it is so.

Shri K. Santhanam: May I know whether that report was circulated to members of this House?

The Honourable Shri Jagjivan Ram: I am not sure, but I think it was distributed to many of the members who attended the Anniversary function of the Employment service.

Shri B. P. Jhunjhunwala: What is the percentage of ex-servicemen so far employed through this Department?

The Honourable Shri Jagjivan Ram: I think that follows in the next question, of which he has given notice.

PERSONS EMPLOYED THROUGH EMPLOYMENT EXCHANGES

741. *Shri B. P. Jhunjhunwala: (a) Will the Honourable Minister of Labour be pleased to state what is the total number of persons who were given employment through the Employment Exchanges yearwise?

(b) How many of these employees are "war-services" men, both military and civil, and how many are from other quarters?

The Honourable Shri Jagjivan Ram: (a) and (b). The information required is given in the statement which is placed on table of the House.

Statement

Part (a)

Total number of persons placed in employment by Employment Exchanges each year is as follows:—

Year	Number placed
1945 (July-Dec.)	9,780
1946	1,06,208
(Jan.-14th Aug.)	99,646
(15th Aug.-31st Dec.)	61,729
Total (1947)	1,61,374
1948 (Jan.-July)	1,43,663
Total number placed upto July 1948	4,21,024

Part (b).

The number of ex-service and non-ex-service personnel so far placed in employment are given below separately :—

Period	Ex-service	Others
1945 (July-Dec.)	3,090	6,690
1946	76,589	29,619
(Jan.-14th Aug.)	65,598	34,047
(15th Aug.-Dec.)	31,940	29,789
Total (1947)	97,538	63,826
1948 (Jan.-July)	42,970	1,00,692
Total upto July 1948	2,20,187	2,00,837

Statistics in respect of Combatants and non-Combatants are not maintained separately.

Shri B. P. Jhunjhunwala: Could the Honourable Minister give me an idea of the percentage of ex-servicemen who have been employed?

The Honourable Shri Jagjivan Ram: I cannot give the answer off-hand.

PERSONS EMPLOYED THROUGH EMPLOYMENT EXCHANGES

742. *Shri B. P. Jhunjhunwala: (a) Will the Honourable Minister of Labour be pleased to state whether the Employment Exchanges obtain and keep a report of the work of persons employed through them, whether satisfactory or otherwise, from the employers?

(b) What percentage of those given employment have been made permanent in their service and how many have been dismissed?

The Honourable Shri Jagjivan Ram: (a) The Employment Exchanges in India (started in 1945) are still in their infancy. The system of 'follow-up' after placements has not yet been developed because Government have neither the legal means nor the staff for the purpose. The Exchanges are, therefore, not yet required to obtain and keep reports of the working of employees placed through them from employers. Employers are, however, requested to report to the Exchanges instances of unsatisfactory work by persons appointed through Employment Exchanges. Very few such complaints have been received so far.

(b) The information is not available, but it is presumed that most of them continue in service.

Shri B. P. Jhunjhunwala: Have Government considered the question of spending so much money in view of the result obtained?

The Honourable Shri Jagjivan Ram: Government are satisfied that the results obtained are quite commensurate with the expenditure incurred.

Dr. B. V. Keskar: May I know the amount spent annually on the employment Exchanges by Government?

The Honourable Shri Jagjivan Ram: I have given that information in reply to the question I have just answered.

Prof. N. G. Ranga: Is it open to these workers who have been given employment through the Labour Exchanges by certain employers and whose services come to be dispensed with by these employers to come back again to these Exchanges and ask for their services in securing another employment?

The Honourable Shri Jagjivan Ram: Yes, Sir. As soon as a person is thrown out of employment again it is open to him to get his name registered at the Employment Exchange and he will have all the facilities of the Employment Exchange.

Prof. N. G. Ranga: Have many such people registered themselves at the Employment Exchanges?

The Honourable Shri Jagjivan Ram: There are not many cases like that.

Dr. B. V. Keskar: Is it a fact that even now only ex-soldiers can register themselves at these Employment Exchanges or others also can get themselves registered?

The Honourable Shri Jagjivan Ram: Many of the Provincial Governments have agreed to throw open these Exchanges to the civilian population as well.

Babu Ramnarayan Singh: Is it the intention of Government to extend the facilities of the Employment Exchanges to rural areas?

The Honourable Shri Jagjivan Ram: Yes, Sir, it is. It is not confined to urban areas alone. It is meant for the entire population, urban and rural both, and ex-servicemen as well as civilian.

Seth Govind Das: Is it not a fact that when an application is made by civilians, preference is given to the military ex-servicemen?

The Honourable Shri Jagjivan Ram: So far, the position is that a certain number of posts—a certain percentage—in the Central Government and the Provincial Governments is reserved for the ex-service personnel and for those reserved posts, of course ex-servicemen receive preferential treatment, but for other posts there is no preferential treatment given to ex-servicemen. What we do is that when there is a requisition from an employer we submit to them a panel of names of those persons who fulfil the required qualifications and it is then open to the employer to select any one from the panel submitted.

HELP TO DISABLED EX-SERVICEMEN AND SUFFERERS UNDER BRITISH RULE

743. *Seth Govind Das: (a) Will the Honourable Minister of Labour be pleased to state how many war-disabled ex-servicemen have undergone vocational training under the training scheme of the Ministry of Labour?

(b) How many of them have received monetary benefit in order to set up their own independent business as skilled tradesmen and artisans?

(c) Do Government propose to consider the advisability of extending such help to those persons who suffered under the British rule in the cause of the country?

The Honourable Shri Jagjivan Ram: (a) Up to the 31st July, 1948, 629 disabled ex-servicemen had completed their training and passed the prescribed trade tests.

(b) Financial awards amounting to Rs. 64,410 have been made to 364 trainees with a view to enabling them to set up their own business. These awards were met out of the funds provided by the Joint St. John Red Cross and War Organisation.

(c) The fund placed at our disposal by the Red Cross is meant for awards to ex-servicemen only. I understand that Provincial Governments have given financial and other help to those persons who suffered in the National movements.

Seth Govind Das: In view of the fact, Sir, that we have achieved Independence, are Government proposing to set up some fund from the Central Government as far as those Congressmen are concerned who have suffered in the movement of 1942?

The Honourable Shri Jagjivan Ram: I think the question may be better addressed to the Minister in charge of Home Affairs.

Shrimati Ammu Swaminadhan: May I ask the Honourable Minister if the Labour Ministry are having any kind of sale agencies to sell the articles which are made in these vocational training centres, so that the public will not only get to know about these but can also buy the kind of articles exhibited at the Labour Exchange Office?

The Honourable Shri Jagjivan Ram: So far we have not experienced any difficulty in disposing of the articles that are prepared in the training centres and we have not felt the necessity of starting sales agencies but I think, we are proposing to have one small sales agency at Cannought Circus.

Shri Deshbandhu Gupta: May I know the number of vocational training centres through which these 629 disabled ex-servicemen have completed their training?

The Honourable Shri Jagjivan Ram: Recently I gave an answer to that effect. I have not got the information ready with me just now.

Shri B. N. Munavalli: May I ask how many schools have been opened and where they have been located?

The Honourable Shri Jagjivan Ram: Training centres for the disabled persons are at Jalahalli, Aundh, Meerut, Bareilly and R. K. Mission School, Madras.

Shri V. C. Kesava Rao: May I ask the Honourable Minister if the 629 personnel who were trained had settled in life?

The Honourable Shri Jagjivan Ram: I presume they are started in life. We have given them financial assistance to start their own business.

RECRUITMENT TO INDIAN FOREIGN SERVICE AND TRAINING TO CANDIDATES

748. *Seth Govind Das: Will the Honourable the Prime Minister be pleased to state:

(a) whether it is a fact that six persons were recruited for Indian Diplomatic Service and sent to Oxford and Cambridge for pursuing higher studies in modern languages and economics;

(b) whether any advertisement was published in any of the papers regarding this recruitment; and, if so, the number of applications which were received; and

(c) what is the agency through which Foreign Service personnel are being recruited?

The Honourable Pandit Jawaharlal Nehru: (a) Yes. Six candidates were selected for the Indian Foreign Service on the results of the Competitive Examination conducted by the Federal Public Service Commission in July 1947 for recruitment to the Indian Foreign Service, Indian Administrative Service, etc. They have completed their preliminary training and have sailed for England recently for special studies at Oxford and Cambridge.

(b) As usual, the competitive examination, held last July by the Federal Public Service Commission, was well advertised in the Press. 1992 candidates applied for the examination.

(c) As in the case of other Superior Services, the normal method of recruitment to this service also is through competitive examinations held by the Federal Public Service Commission.

Shri Mahavir Tyagi: Is it the policy of the Government to continue the practice of sending such candidates to England and other foreign countries for training, as a rule?

The Honourable Pandit Jawaharlal Nehru: The policy of Government in this matter has been stated before this House repeatedly. Normally persons selected after examination are supposed to have 2½ years' special training before they take up their work. That 2½ years' special training includes eighteen months special training in foreign countries and a year in India.

Shri Brajeshwar Prasad: Why were these people sent to Oxford and Cambridge for higher studies? Could not they be sent to Moscow or Washington?

The Honourable Pandit Jawaharlal Nehru: Presumably because it is found that they are more suitable for being sent to that particular country. Everybody is not sent to Oxford; some may be sent to study in some American or other European institutions, possibly.

Dr. B. V. Keskar: Is it necessary for taking training in modern languages to go to England?

The Honourable Pandit Jawaharlal Nehru: No. It may not be necessary. Possibly the idea is that during the year and a half they are sent abroad, they spend a good part of the training where the language has to be learnt.

Prof. N. G. Ranga: Why is it that only 6 people were selected from out of these 1200 candidates who had offered themselves for this competitive examination?

The Honourable Pandit Jawaharlal Nehru: That examination was a common examination for the Indian Administrative Service and the Foreign Service. Most of them probably went into the administrative service. Six were selected out of that for the Foreign Service.

Prof. N. G. Ranga: Is it not a fact, Sir, that many more were recruited outside any competitive examination?

The Honourable Pandit Jawaharlal Nehru: I have ventured to explain to the House on previous occasions. The normal procedure for taking in new candidates is through a competitive examination only. But in view of the lack of people in the Foreign Service as well as in the Indian Administrative Service, a special provisional procedure was adopted, apart from the normal, which was being followed for over-age persons. Special Selection Boards were set up (1) for the Foreign Service and (2) for the Indian Administrative Service. These Boards then selected people from certain groups.

Group 1—from actually those people in service, who might be transferred from one service to another.

Group 2—provisionally some from the Army or from those who had recently come out of the Army as officers.

Group 3—In this those who fulfilled certain qualifications could apply.

Hundreds and thousands of people applied and out of those the Special Boards selected them, but that was a provisional procedure, which is practically over. I cannot say it is completely over; may be, but generally speaking it is over and now unless some special emergency arises the normal procedure would be followed.

Shri K. Santhanam: Has the Prime Minister considered that owing to the prescription of low minimum qualifications an exceedingly large number of people applied and consequently the national time and energy is getting wasted?

(Shrimati Dakshayani Velayudhan rose).

Mr. Speaker: I might state that the honourable member is not in her usual seat and I will not permit her to put the question.

Shrimati Dakshayani Velayudhan: I cannot hear well in the other place.

The Honourable Pandit Jawaharlal Nehru: Originally the only qualifications stated were the possession of the first class university degree in India or in a foreign country. I do not quite know how to lay down any higher qualifications normally speaking. There were other considerations such as knowledge of foreign languages, experience of foreign countries and the like. As a matter of fact, we found by experience, and as the House well knows, that often enough the mere possession of a first class degree may not make a person superior to any persons who only possess a second class degree, but who are superior in other ways. Also there were some persons very specially suited for the foreign countries, who had no first class English degrees but had degrees from some German, French or British Universities and so, later these qualifications were somewhat widened to enable the Selection Boards if they so chose to choose a person even though perhaps he might not have a first class degree of India.

Dr. B. Pattabhi Sitaramayya: Is it true, as report has it, that Sir Girja Shankar Bajpai's son is one of the selectees of the latter group?

The Honourable Pandit Jawaharlal Nehru: It is quite possible, I am not quite sure, because the matter only comes up to me at a very late stage. It might be that the boy may have been selected.

Shri K. Santhanam: Will the Honourable the Prime Minister consider the prescription of M. A. as the minimum qualification, in order to reduce the number of people who appear for the examination?

The Honourable Pandit Jawaharlal Nehru: I hardly think that it will be suitable. I am supposed to be an M.A. Well, I may in confidence inform the House that I got the degree by paying £15 to the Cambridge University.

Shri B. Das: May I ask if people who have foreign wives are still recruited for the foreign service?

Mr. Speaker: That question has been asked repeatedly.

Shrimati Dakshayani Velayudhan: May I ask whether any Harijan was taken for the Indian Diplomatic Service?

The Honourable Pandit Jawaharlal Nehru: So far as I can remember there was such a case, one or possibly two, but I am not quite certain. I am almost certain there was one such case.

Mr. Tajamul Husain: May I know if the person was a lady?

The Honourable Pandit Jawaharlal Nehru: No.

TRANSFER OF HINDU AND BUDDHIST ART AND LITERATURE TREASURES FROM PAKISTAN

745. *Dr. Raghu Vira: (a) Will the Honourable Minister Without Portfolio be pleased to state what happened to the Hindu and Buddhist exhibits in Pakistan Museums, especially at Lahore, Harappa, Mohenjo Daro, Taxila, Peshawar and the beautiful collections of Gandhar Sculptures in the military mess at Hoti-Mardan?

(b) What happened to the Sanskrit and Hindi books of the S. D. College Library, University Library, Public Library, Gurudutt Bhawan Library, Dayal Singh Library and Dwarka Daen Library in Lahore, and the printed books and manuscripts in Bengali and Sanskrit in the Dacca Library and other libraries in Pakistan?

(c) Are any arrangements being made to transfer these exhibits, books and manuscripts to India?

The Honourable Shri N. Gopalaswami Ayyangar: (a) to (c). No information is available in this Ministry, but inquiries are being made and the information collected will be placed on the table of the House in due course.

CONVERSION OF AND NATIONALITY OF HINDUS AND SIKHS IN PAKISTAN

746. *Dr. Raghu Vira: (a) Will the Honourable Minister of Relief and Rehabilitation be pleased to state how many Hindus and Sikhs have been converted to Islam in Pakistan?

(b) How many Hindus and Sikhs are still left in Pakistan?

(c) Will they be considered nationals of Pakistan or India?

The Honourable Shri Mohan Lal Saksena: (a) The requisite information is being collected and will be laid on the table of the House when it has been received.

(b) The approximate number of Hindus and Sikhs still left in Pakistan is estimated as under:

West Punjab	27000
N. W.F.P.	5,000
Sind	2,88,000
Baluchistan	75,000
East Bengal	1,10,00,000
Bahawalpur State	14,000
	1,14,00,000

(c) Attention of the honourable member is invited to the reply given by the Honourable the Prime Minister to Starred Question No. 726 by Dr. N. B. Khare on the 9th December 1947.

Dr. Raghu Vira: Has any date been fixed up to which the nationality of these Pakistan citizens, Hindus in Pakistan or Muslims in India, would be fixed?

The Honourable Shri Mohan Lal Saksena: I believe a date has been fixed. It was about the 30th of September, but I am not sure.

Mr. R. K. Sidhva: Arising out of part (b), the number left in Sind is 2,88,000. May I know how many of them are Harijans?

The Honourable Shri Mohan Lal Saksena: I am afraid I cannot give the exact number. I think they were about one lakh.

DELEGATIONS AND MISSIONS TO FOREIGN COUNTRIES

747. *Shri H. V. Kamath: Will the Honourable the Prime Minister be pleased to state:

(a) the number and personnel of the various official delegations and missions deputed by Government to foreign countries since 1st January, 1948 up to date;

(b) the amount charged to the Indian exchequer on account of each of these delegations and missions; and

(c) the results achieved by them?

The Honourable Pandit Jawaharlal Nehru: (a) to (c). The requisite information, as far as it is available, has been incorporated in a statement† placed on the table of the House.

Shri H. V. Kamath: Is any dress prescribed for members of our delegation going abroad and further are they advised to abstain from alcoholic drinks?

The Honourable Pandit Jawaharlal Nehru: No dress has been prescribed for the members of our delegation. But, certain ceremonial dress has been prescribed for our diplomatic representatives, which is, normally speaking a black *sherwani* and *pyjamas*. The diplomatic corps wear that dress. The other members of the delegation, are completely free to wear any dress they like, provided they do that with propriety.

Shri H. V. Kamath: What about the latter part of the question, Sir?

The Honourable Pandit Jawaharlal Nehru: About that matter too, instructions are issued to the delegation that in the official parties, etc., they may give, there should be no alcoholic drinks. No instructions are issued regarding the private life of the individuals.

Shri H. V. Kamath: Is the Prime Minister aware that the leader of our Parliamentary Delegation going to England some time this month, has enjoined on his colleagues a uniform dress?

Mr. Speaker: Order, order.

Shri H. V. Kamath: On what basis is the personnel of our delegation selected?

The Honourable Pandit Jawaharlal Nehru: On the basis of suitability.

†Printed as Appendix in the day's Debate

Shri H. V. Kamath: Is it a fact that the leader designate of our delegation to the ensuing session of the U. N. General Assembly at Paris recently committed an undiplomatic fauxpas, a pretty grave indiscretion by making a statement to an American News Agency, a statement not too friendly to the country to which she is accredited, to the effect that India was rather disturbed at the strong Soviet Press attacks against the internal and foreign policy of India? If so, was the statement made after consultation with the Government here?

The Honourable Pandit Jawaharlal Nehru: Absolutely. That is the Government's view.

Shri H. V. Kamath: Is it a proper diplomatic procedure to convey these protests through a foreign news agency?

The Honourable Pandit Jawaharlal Nehru: It is a casual statement that some comments in the press are unfortunate and do not help matters much. There was nothing undiplomatic about it. It was a statement of fact which fact has been stated differently on several occasions. I just do not see why my honourable friend is exercised about that matter.

Shri M. Tirumala Rao: Is it not the duty of our Ambassador in Moscow to draw attention to the continued and persistent attacks carried on by the Moscow Press, supported by the Moscow Government against the Indian Government and particularly the Prime Minister?

Mr. Speaker: Order, order. I am afraid we are going much beyond the scope of the question.

Shri H. V. Kamath: Is it not a fact that Mahatma Gandhi just a few days before his martyrdom suggested that a poor country like India should drastically cut down expenditure on our delegations and Embassies abroad?

Mr. Speaker: Order, order. The supplementary question must arise out of the answer and must be within the scope of the question.

Shri H. V. Kamath: I am asking with regard to the expenditure and therefore it arises. I bow to your ruling, Sir.

Mr. Speaker: He is asking for opinion.

The Honourable Pandit Jawaharlal Nehru: I am prepared to say something on this.

Mr. Speaker: My difficulty is this. The Honourable the Prime Minister may be prepared to reply. But, it becomes a sort of precedent that members put questions and the Ministers answer. The questions and answers go on whether relevant or irrelevant. That is the objection; otherwise, I have no objection.

Shri H. V. Kamath: Is it a fact that in most of the delegations that we have sent abroad, the majority of the personnel were permanent officials and that Government has been rather chary of associating members of this House with the delegations?

The Honourable Pandit Jawaharlal Nehru: I think that is a fact, so far as the first part is concerned, that they have been largely permanent officials. If the honourable member will go through the list of delegations sent, which I have placed on the table, a considerably long list, he will see that all these delegations dealt with highly technical matters relating to communications, railways, and so many other matters. Normally only the officials could be sent although of course, others also may be sent who are technical experts. I do not see how any one else would be helpful in these technical matters unless he is an expert himself.

Shri H. V. Kamath: May I know, Sir, why is no announcement made on the floor of the House, regarding the personnel of any delegation, their appointment, and their departure etc.?

The Honourable Pandit Jawaharlal Nehru: I suppose because it is not the custom.

Shri H. V. Kamath: May I know, Sir, why was not even the personnel of the Parliamentary Delegation going to London this month mentioned in our Parliament?

The Honourable Pandit Jawaharlal Nehru: That has nothing to do with the Government. It is for the House and you, Sir, to determine. The Government has not nominated them.

Shri H. V. Kamath: Will an announcement be made on the floor of the House?

Mr. Speaker: Order, order. That is not for the Prime Minister.

Shri H. V. Kamath: With regard to the U. N. General Assembly Session shortly taking place at Paris, does the Jam Saheb of Nawanagar represent living India or fossil India?

The Honourable Pandit Jawaharlal Nehru: He represents the States Department of the Government of India.

Mr. Speaker: Order, order. The question hour is over.

(*b*) WRITTEN ANSWERS

INTERNATIONAL FAIRS AND EXHIBITIONS

748. *Shri V. C. Kesava Rao: (a) Will the Honourable Minister of Commerce be pleased to state what are the international fairs and exhibitions in which India participated from the 1st January, 1948?

(b) How many officials were sent from India in this connection, what is the expenditure incurred on this behalf?

The Honourable Shri K. C. Neogy: (a) (i) The Indian Trade Exhibition at Singapore which was organised as an exclusively Indian Show from the 21st to the 29th February 1948; (ii) the Milan Fair in Italy from the 29th April to the 16th May, 1948, and (iii) the British Industries Fair, London from the 3rd to the 14th May, 1948.

(b) An officer and two Assistants were deputed to the Singapore and Milan Exhibitions. No staff from India was deputed to the British Industries Fair, London, as our Trade Commissioner in London was responsible for making all the arrangements locally. An expenditure of about Rs. 25,000 was incurred on these deputations.

INDIANS HOLDING FOREIGN-GOING MASTERS TICKET

749. *Shri V. C. Kesava Rao: (a) Will the Honourable Minister of Commerce be pleased to state how many Indians hold the Foreign-going Masters Ticket?

(b) Is there any proposal to constitute a body in India to conduct these examinations?

The Honourable Shri K. C. Neogy: (a) Since 1929, the Government of India have issued Certificates of Competency as Masters of Foreign-going ships to fifty-one Indians and sixty others who were born in India. As regards the latter sixty, it has not been possible to ascertain from the records whether they are of Indian or non-Indian domicile.

(b) The examinations are already held in India at Calcutta and Bombay by the Government of India.

PERMITS TO MUSLIMS IN PAKISTAN FOR PERMANENT SETTLEMENT IN INDIA

750. *Shri V. C. Kesava Rao: (a) Will the Honourable Minister Without Portfolio be pleased to state the total number of permits issued to Muslims in Pakistan to come back to the Indian Union for permanent settlement?

(b) What is the basis on which the applications for permits are considered?

The Honourable Shri N. Gopalaswami Ayyangar: (a) The statement below gives position, as on 30th August, 1948, in West Pakistan:

	In Deputy High Commissioner's office, Lahore	In High Commissioners office, Karachi.
Number of permits issued for permanent resettlement.	Nil	Nil
Number of applications received for permanent resettlement.	1515	1454
Number of applications rejected	19 (applications from released military personnel).	Nil
Number of applications pending with Provinces and states concerned — Provinces	453	1454
Number of applications pending with Provinces and states concerned — State	15	
Number of applications pending with the office of the Dy. High Commissioner, Lahore and High Commissioner Karachi.	1022	Nil

The permit system does not apply to travel between Eastern Pakistan and India and no restrictions are placed on such travel.

(b) The honourable member is referred to my answer to part (c) of question No. 378 on 20th August 1948, in so far as it relates to permits for resettlement.

RECOMMENDATIONS OF LABOUR INVESTIGATING COMMITTEE ON LEATHER TANNING INDUSTRY

751. *Shri V. C. Kesava Rao: Will the Honourable Minister of Labour be pleased to state what action Government have taken on the recommendations of the Labour Investigating Committee on Leather Tanning Industry?

The Honourable Shri Jagjivan Ram: An Industrial Committee consisting of representatives of Government, of Employers and of Employees, on tanneries and leather goods manufacturers, has been set up, the preparatory meeting of which is proposed to be held during October 1948. The Committee will consider, amongst others, the points arising from the Labour Investigation Committee's Report.

AMENDMENT OF ASIATIC LAND TENURE AND INDIAN REPRESENTATION ACT OF 1946, OF THE UNION OF SOUTH AFRICA

752. *Shri H. V. Kamath: Will the Honourable the Prime Minister be pleased to state:

(a) whether Government are aware that the South African Prime Minister has given notice of a Bill to amend the Asiatic Land Tenure and Indian Representation Act of 1946;

(b) if so, what the provisions of this Bill are and how they affect the position of Indians in the Union of South Africa; and

(c) what steps Government propose to take to safeguard the position of Indians there?

The Honourable Pandit Jawaharlal Nehru: (a) Yes.

(b) The Bill seeks to repeal Chapter II of the Asiatic Land Tenure and Indian Representation Act, 1946, which provides for limited franchise for Indians on a communal roll in Natal and the Transvaal and for their representation by two Europeans in the Union Senate and three Europeans in the Union House of Assembly. The Act also provides for the representation of Natal Indians by two members in the Natal Provincial Council. Since Indians have been opposed to these provisions since they were enacted the proposed repeal will make no practical difference to them.

(c) The Government of India have no intention of taking any steps regarding the repeal of part of a law which Indians in South Africa regard as obnoxious. As regards the general question of safeguarding Indian interests, the honourable member is already aware of the stand taken by India on the subject in the 1946 and 1947 general sessions of the United Nations Assembly. The Government of India have already proposed that this subject be included in the Agenda of the Assembly Session which is due to start in Paris this month.

POLICY re GRANT OF LICENCES FOR IMPORT OF ALUMINIUM

752. *Shri B. P. Jhunjhunwala: (a) Will the Honourable Minister of Commerce be pleased to state whether it is or has been the policy of Government to give monopoly to one or two persons or concerns for the import of aluminium in its various forms namely, aluminium finished products, ingots, sheets and circles?

(b) If the answer to part (a) above be in the affirmative who are the monopolists, and if the answer to part (a) above be in the negative how many firms are there who are importing these materials?

(c) Which firm is the biggest importer and got the biggest import licence during the years 1946, 1947 and 1948?

(d) Among these importing firms, is there any foreign financed firm? If so, what is its name?

(e) What is the basis on which licences for import of aluminium are given to the various importing firms?

The Honourable Shri K. C. Neogy: (a) and (b). Owing to difference in prices in aluminium products manufactured in India and imported aluminium, and to protect the interests of indigenous manufacturers, Government of India formed an Aluminium Pool in March, 1945 for distribution of indigenous and imported aluminium at pooled average prices.

Aluminium ingots sheets and circles from 16 to 24 gauge of commercial quality (99 per cent. minimum purity) are imported by the four Pool Importers, *viz.*, Messrs. Jeewanlal (1929) Limited, Calcutta, Messrs. Aluminium Hindustan Limited, Bombay, Messrs. Kamani Bros. Limited, Bombay and Messrs. Aluminium Corporation of India Limited, Calcutta.

Aluminium alloy ingots, sheets and circles and other forms of aluminium not included in the Pool categories are allowed to be imported by all *bona fide* importers.

(c) Messrs. Jeewanlal (1929) Limited, obtained licences for the largest quantities during the years 1946 and 1947, and Messrs. Aluminium Hindustan Limited, for the year 1948.

(d) As far as we know Messrs. Jeewanlal (1929) Limited and Messrs. Aluminium Hindustan Limited are firms financed partly by foreign capital.

(c) Issue of licences is based on: (i) Country's total requirements, (ii) country's indigenous production, (iii) availability from different countries and prices, and (iv) orders which each importer has received and the quantities he can sell.

CORPORATION FOR BHAKRA DAM AND NANGAL PROJECTS

754. *Ch. Ranbir Singh: Will the Honourable Minister of Works, Mines and Power be pleased to state:

(a) whether it is a fact that the development of Bhakra Dam and Nangal Projects will affect more than one Province and State *e.g.* East Punjab, Patiala and East Punjab States Union and Bikaner; and

(b) if the answer to part (a) above be in the affirmative whether Government propose to establish a corporation consisting of the representatives of the Government of India, the East Punjab Government and other Governments to develop and supervise the works mentioned above and if not, why not?

The Honourable Shri N. V. Gadgil: (a) The answer is in the affirmative.

(b) The execution of the Projects is at present under the control of the East Punjab Government. Modifications to existing procedure, if any, will be considered at an inter-Governmental Conference which it is proposed to hold at an early date.

IRRIGATION OF CERTAIN EAST PUNJAB DISTRICTS THROUGH BHAKRA DAM PROJECT

755. *Ch. Ranbir Singh: (a) Will the Honourable Minister of Works, Mines and Power be pleased to state whether it is a fact that the Bhakra Dam Project was originally intended for the irrigation of the districts of Rohtak, Hissar, Karnal and Gurgaon in the East Punjab and Jind State?

(b) Is it a fact that under the present scheme the main canal will pass through the Patiala State and the districts mentioned in part (a) above will be deprived of its benefits?

(c) If so, what action do the Government of India propose to take so that the above mentioned districts may not be deprived of such benefits?

The Honourable Shri N. V. Gadgil: (a) Yes, except that Gurgaon district was not covered by the original Bhakra Dam Project.

(b) It is understood that the East Punjab Government has not yet finalised the scheme in respect of the areas to be irrigated.

(c) The question does not arise at this stage, but the question will be considered at the inter-Governmental Conference mentioned in reply to the previous question.

RESTORATION OF HOUSES IN DELHI DECLARED EVACUEE PROPERTY BY CUSTODIAN

756. *Prof. Yashwant Rai: Will the Honourable Minister of Relief and Rehabilitation be pleased to state:

(a) the number of houses in Delhi and New Delhi, which were declared to be Evacuee Property by the Custodian but have been ordered by the Session Court to be handed over to their respective owners;

(b) the number of houses that have so far been restored to such owners as a result of the orders of the Court;

(c) what steps Government have taken to ensure execution of the orders of the appellate authority (Session Court) for restoring the houses to their respective owners in case they have not so far been restored; and

(d) the amount of compensation (apart from rent) Government propose to pay to parties aggrieved as a result of Government's failure to take steps mentioned in part (c) above, and if none, why so?

The Honourable Shri Mohan Lal Saksena: (a) Three.

(b) Nil.

(c) In two cases revision petitions have been filed before the High Court and the High Court has issued injunctions against the restoration of the houses. After the cases have been decided by the High Court action will be taken. In the third case notice has been issued to the occupant demanding surrender of possession and further proceedings are in progress.

(d) Does not arise.

CONTROL OVER TEA MARKET EXPANSION BOARD

757. ***Shri Upendranath Barman:** (a) Will the Honourable Minister of Commerce be pleased to state whether the Government of India exercise any control, authority or supervision over the field works and activities of the Tea Market Expansion Board and over its budgets and expenses?

(b) Will the funds of the Board after the expiry of the term of the Indian Tea Cess Act, 1903 revert to Government?

The Honourable Shri K. C. Neogy: (a) The Government of India do not exercise control over the field work and activities of the Indian Tea Market Expansion Board. Control over the budget and expenses of the Board is exercised to the extent contemplated in sections 6 and 7 of the Indian Tea Cess Act, 1903.

(b) The attention of the honourable member is invited to the provisions of section 10 of the Indian Tea Cess Act.

NON-INDIANS IN INDIAN TEA MARKET EXPANSION BOARD AND LICENSING COMMITTEE

758. ***Shri Upendranath Barman:** (a) Will the Honourable Minister of Commerce be pleased to state what action has been taken to issue notices to the non-Indian employees in the statutory organisations of the Indian Tea Market Expansion Board and the Indian Tea Licensing Committee in terms of the Home Ministry's notification regarding the employment of non-nationals on quasi-Governmental bodies?

(b) What is the nature and scope of the constitution of those bodies and what is the manner in which control is exercised by the Government of India on those bodies?

The Honourable Shri K. C. Neogy: (a) The Ministry of Home Affairs, so far as I am aware, have not issued any notification regarding the employment of non-Indians on quasi-Governmental bodies. Presumably, the honourable member refers to the instructions issued by the late Home Department on 4th November 1946 and 16th December 1946. †Government have already given

†The original reply sent by the Ministry of Commerce to the latter portion of part (a) of Starred Question No. 758 of 2nd September 1948 was:

'The question of giving notice in terms of any such notification to any of the existing non-Indian employees of the Indian Tea Market Expansion Board and the Indian Tea Licensing Committee to terminate their appointments, does not therefore arise,

but the reply as printed above was sent by that Ministry afterwards in the substitution of the original reply which was laid on the table on the 2nd September 1948.'

notice to Mr. Pye, who is the only non-Indian officer on the Tea Licensing Committee, and his term will expire on the 27th October, 1948. As regards the Indian Tea Market Expansion Board, Government have, under the existing Act, no power to interfere in matters relating to the appointment of staff. They propose, however, to replace the present Act by an Indian Central Tea Committee Act and to assume full powers to regulate appointments under the Board. The question of Indianisation of the posts under the Board at present held by non-Indians will be further considered after the proposed legislation is enforced.

(b) I would invite the attention of the honourable member to sections 8 to 10 of the Indian Tea Control Act, 1938, and sections 4 to 7 of the Indian Tea Cess Act, 1903.

EMOLUMENTS OF MR. P. J. GRIFFITHS OF TEA MARKET EXPANSION BOARD

759. *Shri Upendranath Barman: (a) Will the Honourable Minister of Commerce be pleased to state whether it is a fact that one Mr. P. J. Griffiths, was for sometime a part paid employee of the Indian Tea Market Expansion Board and if so, for what period?

(b) What was the salary and emoluments drawn by the said Mr. P. J. Griffiths, during the period from 1937 to 1947 from the funds of the Indian Tea Market Expansion Board?

(c) Was the sanction of the Government of India taken prior to the appointment of Mr. Griffiths and in the fixing of his pay and emoluments and entertainment and travelling allowances?

(d) Is it a fact that the said Mr. (now Sir) Percival Griffiths paid a visit to Calcutta in May 1948 on behalf of the International Tea Market Expansion Board to advise the Government of India and the Indian Tea Market Expansion Board on the programme and scope of operations for tea propaganda in the markets of the world?

(e) If so, were part of the emoluments and the traveling and other expenses of Sir Percival Griffiths met out of the funds contributed by the Indian Tea Market Expansion Board to the International Tea Market Expansion Board, or were they met by any other agency?

The Honourable Shri K. C. Neogy: (a) and (b). Government have been informed by the Indian Tea Market Expansion Board that Mr. P. J. Griffiths was not a part paid employee of the Board, but a stipendary Vice-Chairman of the Board from 1937 to 1947 drawing Rs. 750 per mensem from the funds of the Board.

(c) No, Sir.

(d) and (e). Mr. Griffiths tendered no advice to the Government of India in 1948 on the programme and scope of operations for tea propaganda in the markets of the world. Government have no information on the other points.

INSTRUCTIONS BY REFORMS COMMISSIONER ASSAM re ENROLMENT OF VOTERS FOR NEXT GENERAL ELECTIONS

760. *Shri Basanta Kumar Das: Will the Honourable Minister of Law be pleased to state:

(a) whether the attention of Government has been drawn to the leading article of the *Hindusthan Standard* Calcutta, dated the 14th August 1948 regarding the instructions issued by Assam's Reforms Commissioner for the enrolment of voters for the next general elections;

(b) whether Government have ascertained if the Reforms Commissioner of Assam has issued a circular directing the enlistment of voters on the basis of the theory propounded by him that "citizenship comes first and residence next";

(c) if the answer to part (b) above be in the affirmative, whether Government are aware that it will result in the exclusion of all persons who may claim citizenship on the ground of residence; and

(d) what steps Government propose to take in the matter?

The Honourable Dr. B. R. Ambedkar: (a) and (b). Yes.

(c) and (d). I understand from the Constituent Assembly Secretariat that the Reforms Commissioner of Assam has, at the instance of that Secretariat, issued fresh instructions regarding the enrolment of voters, particularly of refugees. As far as refugees are concerned they are, for the present, being enrolled on the strength of a mere declaration made by them indicating their intention to reside permanently in the locality to which the electoral roll relates. Necessary verification as to their citizenship will be made at a later stage.

GARDEN CHARGES IN M. L. A. BUNGALOWS

761. *Shri Basanta Kumar Das: Will the Honourable Minister of Works, Mines and Power be pleased to state:

(a) the amount of garden charges in M.L.A. Bungalows during Session and non-session periods;

(b) the reasons for any discrepancy of charges during these two periods; and

(c) on what basis different amounts are charged for the same items during the session and non-session periods?

The Honourable Shri N. V. Gadgil: (a) Garden charges are recovered at the rate of rupees twelve annas four per mensem per Bungalow, during non-session periods. Nothing on this account is, however, recovered during the session periods.

(b) and (c). Maintenance of gardens attached to Government residences in New Delhi has been accepted as a Government responsibility, and consequently no charges are levied during the Session periods, when Members of the Assembly are treated as "entitled officers". During the non-session periods, members are not so treated, and consequently higher rent and garden charges are recovered in accordance with the provisions of Fundamental Rule 45-B.

Subsequent to the fixation of a standard monthly rent for 75 Quarters, the question of uniform rates for gardens attached to these Quarters will also be considered.

ENROLMENT ON REGISTER OF ACCOUNTANTS.

762. *Shri Lakshminarayan Sahu: (a) Will the Honourable Minister of Commerce be pleased to state whether it is a fact that the members of the Society of Incorporated Accountants and Auditors are, *ipso facto*, enrolled on the Register of Accountants maintained by the Government of India?

(b) Is it also a fact that that Society recognises the experience of Government servants in Great Britain who audit different Government, commercial and quasi-commercial undertakings for purposes of exempting them from the articles prescribed in their bye-laws?

(c) If the answer to part (b) above be in the affirmative, why the experience of auditors in Government Service in India who audit different commercial and quasi-commercial undertakings is not recognised for purposes of enrolment on

the register of Accountants, when such auditors are theoretically fully qualified, i.e., they have passed the G.D.A. or the final examination for R. A.?

(d) Do Government propose to consider the recognition of the practical experience of such man in lieu of articles?

The Honourable Shri K. C. Neogy: (a) Yes, Sir.

(b) Government have no information in the matter.

(c) and (d). Government do not consider the experience gained by those, who have passed the G.D.A. examination, in Government offices and different commercial and quasi-commercial undertakings as an auditor or an accountant as equivalent to the training imparted to articled clerks by Registered Accountants who are entitled to train such clerks. They do not, therefore, propose to permit those who have passed the G.D.A. examination to enrol themselves as Registered Accountants without putting in the requisite period of training as an articled clerk.

QUARTERS FOR CENTRAL GOVERNMENT EMPLOYEES IN DELHI

762. **Shri L. Krishnaswami Bharathi:** Will the Honourable Minister of Works, Mines and Power be pleased to state:

(a) when the building of additional quarters for clerks and officers in the Central Secretariat, which were supposed to be ready by this year, will be complete and ready for occupation;

(b) whether steps will be taken to see that such additional quarters also are not occupied by refugees who are not Government servants and that allotment is made to persons on the waiting list of the Estate office;

(c) whether there has been any proposal that the cases of Government servants who had been deputed during the war to places outside Delhi on Government duty should be considered as if no such absence from headquarters had occurred and that their total residence in Delhi should be taken account in determining their priority for Government accommodation in Delhi;

(d) if so, how long that proposal has been under consideration and when a decision is likely to be reached in the matter;

(e) whether Government propose to consider the desirability of issuing instructions to the Estate Office to provide as soon as possible all persons who have been on the waiting list for more than two years with Government quarters;

(f) whether Government propose to consider the advisability of issuing a full statement of the position as it is at present, in order to reassure waiting persons that all possible steps are being taken to meet the situation; and

(g) whether Government are aware that a large number of Government servants are on the streets and have had to go without quarters for a long time and whether Government propose to take any immediate steps to give them some kind of temporary accommodation till more permanent accommodation is available and if not, why not?

The Honourable Shri N. V. Gadgil: (a) A statement (No. I) showing the progress of the housing schemes for Central Government employees in Delhi is placed on the table of the House. Most of these building schemes are expected to be completed in 1949 and the quarters will be allotted to Government employees as and when they become ready for occupation.

(b) Yes.

(c) Yes.

(d) The proposal has been under consideration since January, 1948. As it involves some far reaching changes in the basis of the existing rules, it cannot be given effect to till a general revision of rules which is now in hand has been completed.

(e) No fresh instructions are necessary as the Estate Officer follows the existing rules.

(f) A statement (No. II) showing the present position with regard to Government accommodation in Delhi is placed on the table of the House.

(g) Government are aware that a large number of Government servants have not as yet been able to secure Government residential accommodation. Every effort is being made to provide them with temporary accommodation either in leased or requisitioned private houses, or in buildings temporarily converted into residential suits. It is not, however, possible for Government to provide accommodation for all their employees in Government quarters. For, this will involve construction on a scale which the present supply and demand position in respect of building materials will not permit for a long time to come. It should be noted that a large number of Government servants have lived in the past in private accommodation and still continue to live in such accommodation.

STATEMENT I

Progress of residential construction schemes in Delhi Referred to in question No. 763 on 2nd September 1949.

Serial No.	Scheme	Cost	Have tenders been invited? For how many quarters and in what stages	Present position of work and extent of completion.	Probable date of completion.
		Rs.			
1.	200 Officers' flats Cornwallis Road	53,81,275/.	Tenders invited for all 200 flats in one stage and accepted.	Excavations and foundations completed for 28 flats; cement concrete foundations laid for 20 flats; masonry upto plinth completed in 6 flats; further layout of 8 flats in hand.	October 1949.
2.	1,000, clerks' quarters at Factory Road, New Delhi.	91,73,000/.	Tenders have been invited for 384 quarters in the first stage & for 376 quarters in the second stage. For the balance of 240 quarters tenders are being invited.	Work has commenced and excavation has been done for 20 quarters.	Probable date of completion for the 760 quarters for which tenders have already been accepted is July 1949. The balance of 240 quarters may be completed by December 1949.
3.	1,000 clerks' quarters at Timarpur	91,73,000	Tenders for first stage for 336 quarters were invited and rejected. They are being reinvited. At present vacant site is available only for 336 quarters. efforts are being made to get an area at Chandrawal from the Chief Commissioner which would accommodate about 550 qrs. If this area is received, the second stage accommodation will be commenced. The third stage will be taken up after the existing buildings are vacated and dismantled.		Probable date of completion of 1st stage accommodation for 336 quarters is December 1949.
4.	36 clerks' quarters at Karolbagh	3,06,000	Tenders have not yet been called. The site on which the quarters were to be constructed had been taken over by the Ministry of R/R.		

5. 1,000 Pecns' quarters at Mubarak-shah Kotla, New Delhi	24,00,000	Tenders were called for all 1000 quarters in one stage and accepted. Works was commenced in March.	Excavation has been done in 616 quarters, cement concrete foundations in 508 quarters, brick work in superstructure is in progress in 416 quarters.	Probable date of completion is March 1949.
6. 250 Pecns quarters at Timarpur	6,00,000	Site is available only for 72 quarters for which tenders were called once and rejected and are being recalled now. The remaining 178 quarters work would be commenced when the site is located and developed.		
7. 665 quarters for the work charged staff of the C.P.W.D. at Rs. 2, 400/- each.	15,96,000	The estimate is under preparation.		

STATEMENT II

Showing the accommodation position in Delhi as on 30th August 1948.

Class of Officers	Total No. of applicants	Total accommodation in the pool	No. of officers so far provided	No. of officers unprovided	Proposed construction.
Officers drawing Rs. 600 or more.	1,357	1,019	1,019	338[*]	200 flats.
Officers drawing less than Rs. 600 p.m.	28,421	7,362	7,362	21,059	2,036
Class IV Government Servants	19,219	2,576	2,576	16,643	1,250

[*]Of these 147 officers are living in clerical accommodation and 45 are permanent residents in Government Hostels. About 200 tenants have been improvised out of some of the barracks surrendered by the Military authorities.

OCCUPATION OF GOVERNMENT QUARTERS BY REFUGEES

764. *Shri L. Krishnaswami Bharathi: Will the Honourable Minister of Works, Mines and Power be pleased to state:

(a) the number of quarters and houses of all types of Government accommodation in New Delhi and adjoining areas, which became vacant after the 1st of August, 1947 as a result of the exodus of Muslim or other Government servants to Pakistan or other places outside Delhi, or as a result of retirement from Government service or other causes;

(b) the number of applicants on the register of the Estate Office in the Central Public Works Department as on the 1st August, 1947 for orthodox and unorthodox types of quarters;

(c) the number of those provided with quarters after the 1st August, 1947 up to the 1st July, 1949 out of those on the waiting list;

(d) whether it is a fact that refugees from West Pakistan have occupied a large number of such vacant quarters and if so, how many have been so occupied;

(e) whether the refugees referred to in part (d) above are in the service of the Government of India and if not, why alternate accommodation is not provided for them, and the quarters thus released, allotted to the Government servants who have been long on the waiting list;

(f) whether Government propose to take early steps to see that such occupied quarters are vacated and allotted to persons on the waiting list;

(g) whether any instructions have been issued that such unauthorised occupation should be condoned and if so, for how long;

(h) whether retired or pensioned Government servants whose original homes were in West or East Pakistan and who cannot return there, will be allowed to continue in their present quarters for a year (instead of for one month as at present allowed) after their retirement; and

(i) if the answer to part (h) above be in the negative, the reasons why Government make a distinction between refugees and this class of retired Government servants?

The Honourable Shri N. V. Gadgil: (a) to (d). A statement giving the details is laid on the table of the House. The reply to part (d) of the question is also in the affirmative.

(e) Some of the refugees in unauthorised occupation of Government accommodation are Government servants while others are not. As alternative accommodation becomes available, these refugees will be evicted and the quarters thus released allotted to Government officers who are eligible for them.

(f) Government have been taking all possible steps to get these quarters vacated.

(g) No.

(h) No.

(i) No such distinction is made. Neither refugees nor retired Government servants are entitled to occupy Government quarters for any length of time. In the case of the latter the rule is that they are entitled to retain their houses for a period of one month only after retirement. In the case of refugees their occupation of Government quarters is entirely unauthorised, but as a matter of policy it has been decided that as, unlike retired Government servants, they had to migrate to Delhi suddenly and had no time to plan their movements, some sort of alternative accommodation should be offered to them on purely humanitarian grounds. Government are taking all possible steps to ensure that this concession is not abused.

Statement

Showing details relating to parts (a) to (d)

For Officers drawing Rs. 600 and above p. m.	For Officers drawing below Rs. 600 p. m.	For class IV Officers (*e.g.* peon & others)
(a) 478	2,542	689
(b) 1,192	21,656 After 1st August 1947 applications were received from repatriated officers from Pakistan numbering 8,202 and these were also considered for allotment.	19,219
(c) 593 (26 bungalows are occupied by refugees and allottees have not been able to take possession).	2,542 (602 quarters are occupied by refugees and allottees have not been able to take possession).	689 (337 quarters are occupied by refugees and allottes have not been able to take possession).
(d) 26 bunglows and 114 quarters.	602	337

ILLEGAL TRANSFERS OF LICENCES UNDER IMPORTS AND EXPORTS (CONTROL) ACT, 1947

765. *Shri S. V. Krishnamurthy Rao: (a) Will the Honourable Minister of Commerce be pleased to state as to how many cases have been launched for illegal transfer of licences since 1st January, 1948 to 1st September, 1948 under the Imports and Exports (Control) Act, 1947?

(b) How many have been convicted?

(c) How many cases have been withdrawn?

The Honourable Shri K. C. Neogy: (a) No cases have been launched for illegal transfer of licences since 1st January, 1948 to 1st September, 1948.

(b) and (c). Do not arise.

ELECTRICITY AND POLICE POST FOR GANDHI NAGAR

766. *Shri M. Ananthasayanam Ayyangar: (a) Will the Honourable Minister of Works, Mines and Power be pleased to state whether Government are aware that the population of Gandhi Nagar, outside Jumna Bridge, Delhi has grown to several thousands recently?

(b) Are Government aware that there are no lighting arrangements on the main road of the colony although there is electric supply upto Jamuna Bridge which is less than two furlongs from this place?

(c) Are Government aware that there is no police post in the colony and there is a constant danger for the life and security of the inhabitants?

(d) If the answers of parts (b) and (c) above, be in the affirmative, do Government propose to take steps to municipalise the colony and make proper arrangements for the lighting of the streets and for the safety of the people?

The Honourable Shri N. V. Gadgil: The questions (Nos. 766 and 767) relate to the Ministry of Health and will be answered by the Honourable Minister for Health on a later date.

BAN AGAINST CONSTRUCTIONS IN GANDHI NAGAR

†767. *Shri M. Ananthasayanam Ayyangar: (a) Will the Honourable Minister of Works, Mines and Power be pleased to state whether Government have considered the desirability of encouraging construction in Gandhi Nagar which is so near Delhi, with a view to easing the congestion in the capital?

(b) If the answer to part (a) above be in the affirmative, what steps do Government propose to take in this connection?

(c) Are Government aware that last year, due to floods, the road connecting Gandhi Nagar with the Jamuna Bridge was breached at several points and that repair of this road has not yet been completed?

(d) If the answer to part (c) above be in the affirmative, do Government propose to expedite the completion of repairs as already a year has elapsed since the area was flooded?

(e) What steps do Government propose to take to avoid the recurrence of such floods?

(f) What is the place of Gandhi Nagar in the various schemes for the development of Delhi, prepared by Government?

(g) Do Government propose to remove the ban, if there is any in existence today, on the construction of residential or business premises in the colony?

LICENCES FOR IMPORT OF BICYCLES

768. *Shri Satis Chandra Samanta: Will the Honourable Minister of Commerce be pleased to state:

(a) the policy adopted as regards the import of bicycles and granting of licences for the same;

(b) whether small industrialists are being granted licences for the import of bicycles; and

(c) if not, whether Government propose to consider the advisability of granting them licences in future?

The Honourable Shri K. C. Neogy: (a) The present policy is that on currency considerations bicycles are not allowed importation from dollar and hard currency countries. Licences for imports of bicycles from soft and sterling area countries are subject to monetary ceiling. Licences for imports of complete bicycles from soft currency countries are granted on the basis of a fixed annual quota of the firm's past import in any year between 1937-38 to 1947-48. In addition, applications from new-comers for small amounts are also considered on the basis of their trade contacts with foreign suppliers and the financial standing of the applicants.

(b) and (c). It is not clear what the honourable member means by small industrialists. Ordinarily, an industrialists does not require complete bicycles for use in cycle industry, though he may require components of cycles for assembling purposes. If the honourable member's reference is to industrialists who require cycles for use of their staff, licences can be granted only if they fit in the licensing policy enunciated in reply to part (a) above. If, however, the honourable member refers to "small traders" his attention is invited to the reply given on the floor of this House under Part (b) of the Starred Question No. 464, on the 25th August, 1948. I may like to state for the honourable member's information that small traders can obtain licences on the basis of their past imports as well as under the new-comers' scheme.

†For answer to this question, see answer to Question No. 766.

EXPORT OF GROUNDNUT

769. *Shri V. C. Kesava Rao: Will the Honourable Minister of Commerce be pleased to state what is the quantity of groundnut permitted for export per year?

The Honourable Shri K. C. Neogy: Two statements, one showing the actual exports of groundnut per fiscal year from 1936-37 and the other showing the quotas allotted per year from 1945 onwards are laid on the table.

Statement I

Actual exports of Groundnut from 1936-37 onwards (Quantity in tons)

1936-37	7,39,483
1937-38	6,19,370
1938-39	8,35,103
1939-40	5,48,561
1940-41	3,38,527
1941-42	3,94,985
1942-43	2,57,923
1943-44	2,40,875
1944-45	2,14,953
1945-46	1,96,690
1946-47	Nil
1947-48	56,214

Statement II

Quotas of Groundnut allotted per Year from 1945 onwards

1945	600,625tons
1946	Nil.
1947	110,000 tons.
1948	100,000 metric tons.

WELFARE OF AGRICULTURAL LABOUR

770. *Shri Satis Chandra Samanta: (a) Will the Honourable Minister of Labour be pleased to state what steps have so far been taken for the welfare of the agricultural labourers?

(b) What steps do Government propose to take for their welfare in the near future?

The Honourable Shri Jagjivan Ram: (a) and (b). No special steps have been taken for the welfare of agricultural workers. Employment in Agriculture is, however, one of the scheduled employments under the Minimum Wages Act which came into force on the 15th March, 1948. The Provincial Governments are required to fix by the 15th March, 1951, the minimum rates of wages payable to agricultural workers. The Central Government propose to hold an enquiry to ascertain the system and levels of wages and perquisites paid to agricultural workers, their other earnings, regularity of employment and working and living conditions with a view to considering what steps should be taken to improve their conditions of employment.

EXCHANGE OF INMATES OF MENTAL HOSPITALS BETWEEN INDIA AND PAKISTAN

771. *Sardar Hukam Singh: Will the Honourable Minister without Portfolio be pleased to state:

(a) whether any non-Muslims detained in mental hospitals in Western Pakistan have been brought to India;

(b) if so, how many have been brought and how many are still there; and

(c) if not, whether Government propose to consider the advisability of exchanging these people, just as it has been done in the case of prisoners?

The Honourable Shri N. Gopalaswami Ayyangar: (a) No such patient has been brought to any Government hospitals in India.

(b) The information is being collected as to how many non-Muslim patients, at present, are in Mental Hospitals in Western Pakistan. But their number in the Punjab Mental Hospital, Lahore, as during the 3rd week of May, 1948, was 437.

(c) The matter is under the consideration of the Government of India.

REHABILITATION OF REFUGEE LAWYERS

772. *Sardar Hukam Singh: (a) Will the Honourable Minister of Relief and Rehabilitation be pleased to state whether Government are aware that about 1,000 lawyers, displaced from Western Pakistan, formed themselves into an Association having its office in the "P" Block of the Government Secretariat?

(b) Did Government hold out any hopes to this Association that as many refugee lawyers as possible would be given employment or provided for otherwise?

(c) If so, have any of them been provided for and if so, how many?

(d) Do Government propose to consider the cases of the rest as well?

(e) Was there a proposal at some stage to issue export and import licences to some of these displaced lawyers?

(f) If so, what is the decision taken thereon?

The Honourable Shri Mohan Lal Saksena: (a) Yes. But Government have no definite information regarding the number of members or the rules of the Association.

(b) No.

(c) 77 displaced lawyers have been employed in eight Ministries of the Government of India including 40 in the Ministry of Relief and Rehabilitation. Information about all the Ministries is not available. 48 displaced lawyers are undergoing training for employment as Assistants in the Government of India Offices.

(d) Government have been reviewing the position from time to time and I place on the table a note indicating the steps which have already been taken by Government for the rehabilitation of displaced lawyers.

(e) and (f). Proposal for the grant of export and import licences to refugees in general, including displaced lawyers is under the consideration of Government.

ANNEXURE

Concessions allowed to Refugee Lawyers by the Honourable High Courts in the Indian Dominion

C. P. and Berar.—There is no difficulty in admitting and enrolling refugee pleaders on the recommendations of the Bar Council who have so far considered sympathetically all applications for enrolment, with due regard to experience, etc., of individuals.

Regarding exemption from the payment of Sanad Fees, Central Legislation has been recommended, which is under consideration by the C. P. Government.

Bihar.—The High Court Bar Council rules regarding enrolment of Advocates are comprehensive enough to admit Advocates from Pakistan.

Regarding enrolment in Courts subordinate to the High Court, Patna, and exemption from Sanad Fees, Bihar Government are considering the suggestion of the High Court to amend the existing rules.

West Bengal.—The High Court of Judicature, Calcutta, have amended rules to permit displaced lawyers from Pakistan to practise in the High Court and Courts subordinate thereto.

The exemption from payment of Sanad Fee is being considered by the West Bengal Government.

Bombay.—The enrolment rules of the Bombay High Court have been so relaxed as to enable the advocates from the Chief Court of Sind at Karachi, who are LL.Bs. of the Bombay University and have practised there for 5 years to be enrolled without the production of the Bar Council's Certificates as required under the existing rules.

The refugee lawyers have also been exempted from payment of fresh duty under Article 30 of Schedule 1 of the Indian Stamp Act.

Where it is difficult to obtain certificates to the effect that (i) they have got their names removed from the roll of Advocates maintained by those courts, and (ii) they have paid the necessary Stamp Duty to those courts at the time of their enrolment, the Bombay High Court have agreed to accept from the refugee lawyers an affidavit to this effect.

East Punjab.—The Honourable High Court have decided that as a temporary measure Hindu and Sikh advocates of the N.-W.F.P. and Sind Provinces, who have practised as advocates in the highest court of their respective Province for three years, may be enrolled as advocates of the Court.

It has also been decided to remit for a period of two years with effect from 11th May, 1948, the stamp duty leviable on the Instrument of entry as an advocate of the East Punjab High Court in respect of those advocates of the N.-W.F.P. and Sind Province, who have practised as such in their respective Provinces for a period of three years.

United Provinces.—The Honourable High Court of Allahabad and the Honourable Chief Court of Avadh have made certain concessions to enable refugee lawyers to start practice forthwith.

The amendment of the Legal Practitioners Act, the Bar Councils Act, the Stamp Act and other legislation is under consideration of the U.P. Government for giving facility to refugee lawyers for enrolment as advocates without payment of prescribed fees.

REHABILITATION OF DISPLACED LAWYERS

The question of rehabilitation of displaced legal practitioners from Western Pakistan has for sometime past been engaging the attention of the Government of India and various steps have been taken to facilitate their rehabilitation.

2. On the recommendations of this Ministry, the Honourable High Courts in the Indian Dominion have allowed concessions to refugee lawyers mentioned in the Annexure.

3. The Ministry of Relief and Rehabilitation recommended all Provincial Governments, States and Chief Commissioners to assist displaced lawyers in their rehabilitation. It has been suggested that the number of Public Prosecutors and Assistant Public Prosecutors in each district should be increased. This, it has been pointed out, will not mean extra cost but, on the other hand, may result in a decrease in the income of the Prosecutors already appointed in case they are paid on the basis of the number of cases handled by them.

It has further been suggested that they be considered for appointment in connection with the setting up of Debt Adjustment Boards and Tribunals for the Industrial Disputes, etc.

It has also been suggested that displaced legal practitioners should be appointed as Receivers and given other work on behalf of the Government wherever possible.

A list of displaced lawyers registered at the Special Employment Bureau has been forwarded to all Provincial/State Governments for selecting out suitable candidates for appointment.

4. The Provincial Governments have been asked to instruct their local officers to give displaced lawyers any help which they may require for establishing themselves, such as securing office and residential accommodation.

5. The Ministry of States have written to Indian States that in the process of modernisation of administration now proceeding, there is considerable scope for useful employment for displaced lawyers. Many of them, it is pointed out, are well versed in modern jurisprudence and can do good work in judicial or administrative posts.

6. The Ministry of Railways have asked all the Indian Government Railways to give preference to displaced lawyers while making direct recruitment to the posts of Railway litigation Inspectors and Railway Claims Inspectors, or to any other posts in which lawyers' qualifications and experience may be found useful.

7. The Ministry of Relief and Rehabilitation has written to Provincial Governments requesting them to consider sympathetically applications from displaced lawyers for Government employment. A list of different types of employment for which they may be suitable has also been circulated. Domicile rules have been relaxed in favour of refugees in most Provinces so that there should be now no difficulty on this score.

8. The East Punjab Government have employed a number of displaced lawyers in posts in connection with rehabilitation. They will be also eligible for rehabilitation loans under the Ordinance which has been promulgated. The East Punjab Government have given an assurance that they will be glad to give such assistance as may be possible in order to rehabilitate members of the legal profession.

9. Private organizations like the Federation of Indian Chambers of Commerce and Industry have also been approached by the Government of India asking them to consider sympathetically applications received from displaced lawyers.

10. The Ministry of Relief and Rehabilitation itself has employed 40 displaced lawyers in the Ministry as well as in various offices under it.

11. The Ministry of Home Affairs have decided to call upon the Employment Co-ordination Committee to carry out a proper grading and recommend 100 names from among lawyers and other highly qualified middle class refugees with a view to their placement mainly in the Assistants' grade in the Central Secretariat through the Transfer Bureau as and when vacancies are made available. These persons are proposed to be given training for a period of 3 months (2 months in the Secretariat Training School and one month by supernumerary attachment to Secretariat Sections).

12. They are being encouraged to take to other trades and vocations and financial and other assistance will be made available to them as to other refugees.

PREVENTION OF EXPORT OF SULPHUR AND OTHER FINISHED PRODUCTS FROM JAPAN BY SOUTH PACIFIC AMERICAN CONTROL AUTHORITIES

773. *Shri M. Tirumala Rao: (a) Will the Honourable Minister of Commerce be pleased to state whether it is a fact that the South Pacific American Control Authorities in Japan have frozen all stocks of Sulphur in that country thereby preventing their export to India and other countries?

(b) Are Government aware that it is desirable from the point of view of the Indian sulphuric acid and fertiliser manufacturing industries that abundant and cheap supplies of high-grade sulphur should be obtained from the best source?

(c) If so, what steps are Government taking to obtain supplies for the benefit of Indian industry?

(d) Do Government propose to consider the desirability of negotiating with the South Pacific American Control Authorities in order to obtain high-grade sulphur at reasonable prices for the Indian chemical and fertiliser industries?

(e) Have Government information regarding the freezing of other important categories of raw materials and finished products by South Pacific American Control Authorities in Japan and if so, what are they?

The Honourable Shri K. C. Neogy: (a) and (e). I presume the honourable member is referring to the Supreme Commander for the Allied Powers in Japan. Government have no information regarding the freezing of important raw materials including sulphur, and other finish products in Japan by the supreme Commander of Allied Powers referred to by the honourable member.

(b) Yes, Sir.

(c) Sufficient dollar ceiling is being provided for import of sulphur from America where high grade sulphur is available at comparatively cheap prices at present.

(d) Government are alive to the need for obtaining supplies of sulphur from Japan. In fact, as a result of negotiations, they had been offered a quantity of 3,000 tons in January this year by the Supreme Commander of Allied Powers, but this offer could not be availed of owing to high prices. They have also intimated their annual requirements of sulphur from Japan but the actual quantity that would be available would depend upon the size of the export surplus in Japan as also the price factor Negotiations to this end are continuing.

IMPORT OF MOTOR-CARS, TRUCKS, MOTOR-CYCLES AND CYCLES

774. *Dr. P. S. Deshmukh: (a) Will the Honourable Minister of Commerce be pleased to state the number of motor-cars, trucks, motor-cycles and bicycles imported for each of the years 1945-46, 1946-47 and 1947-48?

(b) What was the percentage of duty on these articles during each of the above years?

(c) Has there been any increase in duty since 1946-47? If so, how much?

The Honourable Shri K. C. Neogy: (a), (b) and (c). I lay on the table two statements giving the required information.

Statement I

Showing number of Motor Cars, Trucks, Motor Cycles and Bicycles Imported during each of the Years 1945-46 to 1947-48

	Motor Cars including Cabs	Motor Omnibuses Vans and Lorries with bodies	Chassis	Motor Cycles including scooters	Cycles
1945-46	263	150	7363	600	76141
1946-47	10687	669	6090	3070	212654
Seven months April to October 1947.	13725	465	5836	3226	167324

N.B.—Figures upto July 1947 relate to British India before partition. Those for subsequent months exclude Sind and Chittagong figures from the first and fifteenth August 1947 respectively.

Statement II

Showing the rates of Duty on Motor Trucks, Motor Cycles, Motor Cars and Cycles

Name of articles	Item No. of the Indian Customs Tariff under which duty leviable	Nature of duty	Standard rate of duty	Preferential rate of duty if the article is the produce or manufacture of			Whether there has been change in the rate of the duty since 1945-46	Remarks
				U.K.	A British colony	Burma		
Motor Trucks . .	75	Revenue	30 per cent *ad valorem*	..		12 per cent *ad valorem*	No change	..
Motor Cycles . .	75(2)	Preferential Revenue	45 per cent *ad valorem*	36 per cent *ad valorem*		24 per cent *ad valorem*	No change	

Name of articles	Item No of the Indian Customs Tariff under which duty leviable.	Nature of duty.	Standard rate of duty	Preferential rate of duty if the article is the produce or manufacture of			Whether there has been no change in the rate of the duty since 1945-46.	Remarks.
				U.K.	A British colony.	Burma		
Motor Cars . .	75(1)	Preferential Revenue	50 per cent *ad valorem*	42½ per cent *ad valorem*	..	26 per cent *ad valorem*	Yes, as indicated in column 7	From 1.4.45 to 28.2.48 the rate of duty was 45% *ad valorem* (Standard) and 36% *ad valorem* U. K. preferential inclusive of the 1/5th customs surcharge. From 29.2.48 the revised rates mentioned in column 5 were brought into effect by section 4 (d) of the Indian Finance Act 1948. These rates are not subject to any surcharge.
Cycles	75(5)	Protective	24 per cent *ad valorem* if of British manufacture and 36% *ad valorem* if not of British manufactures.	..			No.	Cycles were, from 1945-46 up to 31.3.47, subjected to preferential rates of revenue duty mentioned in col. 4 which, have, with effect from, 1.4.47, been converted into Protective rates of duty by the Indian Tariff (Amendment) Act 1947 for a period of 2 years i.e with upto the end of March 1949.

SUPPLY AND DISTRIBUTION OF KEROSENE OIL

775. *Dr. P. S. Deshmukh: (a) Will the Honourable Minister of Works, Mines and Power be pleased to state what are the sources of supply of kerosene oil to India?

(b) What quantity was available for distribution for each of the years 1945-46, 1946-47, 1947-48 and 1948-49?

(c) Are Government aware of the scarcity of kerosene during the last two years?

(d) What are the causes of this scarcity?

(e) What steps are Government taking to increase the supply and to bring about a better distribution of kerosene?

(f) Are Government aware that want of kerosene causes inconvenience to poorer people?

(g) By what date do Government propose to arrange for a better supply of kerosene?

(h) Are Government aware that there is black-marketing in kerosene?

(i) If so, what steps have Government taken to stop this?

The Honourable Shri N. V. Gadgil: (a) The following are the sources of supply of kerosene to India:—(i) Iran, (ii) Bahrein, (iii) Saudi Arabia, and (iv) Indigenous production in Assam.

(b) The actual distribution of kerosene was as follows:

1945—559,482 tons for undivided India.

1946—650,525 tons for undivided India.

1st January to 15th August, 1947—474,085 tons for undivided India.

16th August to 31st December, 1947—232,849 tons for Indian Union only.

1st January to 31st March, 1948—147,440 tons for Indian Union only.

Allocation for the period 1st April to 31st December, 1948—400,110 tons for Indian Union only.

Figures on basis of financial year are not available.

(c) Yes.

(d) (i) World shortage of all petroleum products since middle of last year on account of rehabilitation demands from Europe and unprecedented increase in consumption specially in U.S.A., (ii) Shortage of railway transport, and (iii) Shortage of tinplate for the manufacture of kerosene containers for internal distribution.

(e) (i) Kerosene is received in India according to allocations of petroleum products made in London on global basis. Besides stressing on the oil companies and through them their principals in U.K. the urgent necessity of increasing supplies to India, the Government of India have been making every effort to relieve the acute shortage of petroleum products in India. As a result we have obtained for second half of 1948 an increase of 12 per cent. over the total allocation of petroleum products for the first half of 1948.

(ii) Retail distribution of kerosene is under Provincial control and hence Provincial Governments are responsible for taking the necessary steps for bettering distribution of kerosene.

(f) Yes.

(g) No definite date can be given. Government are constantly endeavouring to obtain better supply.

(h) No.

(i) It is for Provincial Governments to stop black market, if there is any.

APPOINTMENT OF MRS. LAKSHMI MENON FOR NEXT SESSION OF U. N. O.

776. *Shri Mahavir Tyagi: (a) Will the Honourable the Prime Minister be pleased to state whether one Mrs. Lakshmi Menon has been appointed by him to represent India in the forthcoming session of the United Nations Organisation?

(b) Who are the other members of this delegation?

The Honourable Pandit Jawaharlal Nehru: (a) Yes—as an Alternate Delegate.

(b) Apart from Advisers the following have been included as Representatives or as Alternates: Shrimati Vijayalakshmi Pandit, Shri M. C. Setalvad, Shri J. R. D. Tata, Shri B. Shiva Rao, His Highness the Jam Saheb of Nawanagar, to represent the States, Prof. Habib of Aligarh University, Shri D. B. Desai, Minister for India in Switzerland, and Dr. P. P. Pillai, India's permanent representative with the United Nations.

In the event of the Prime Minister and the Secretary General being present in Paris during the sessions of the United Nations General Assembly, they will represent India.

BAR ON ALLOTMENT OF ACCOMMODATION TO GOVERNMENT SERVANTS OWNING HOUSES IN NEW DELHI

777. *Shri Damodar Swarup Seth: (a) Will the Honourable Minister of Works, Mines and Power be pleased to state whether it is a fact that a Government servant owning a house in New Delhi is debarred from having allotment of a Government quarter?

(b) If the answer to part (a) above be in the affirmative, do Government propose, in view of the difficulties and delay in evicting tenants, to help Government servants to get possession of their houses from tenants by requisitioning such houses and handing them over to Government servants owning them?

(c) If not, how do Government propose to help such Government servants?

The Honourable Shri N. V. Gadgil: (a) Yes, except in the case of Government servants whose houses have been requisitioned by Government or who were allotted Government quarters prior to 2nd September, 1947, the date from which the new order came into force.

(b) No. The houses owned by Government servants already let out by them cannot be requisitioned without providing alternative accommodation to their occupants, and this is not practicable.

(c) I would draw the attention of the honourable member to the provisions of Section 9 (1) (c) of the Delhi and Ajmer-Merwara Rent Control Act, 1947, which provides a remedy.

MISREPRESENTATION OF INDIA THROUGH FILMS SENT TO U. N. O.

778. *Shri Biswanath Das: (a) Will the Honourable the Prime Minister be pleased to state whether the attention of Government has been drawn to a letter of Sri Baburao Patel from Lake Success published in the *Filmindia* of July, 1948, at page 27, regarding misrepresentation of India, Indian Society and her people through films sent to the United Nations Organisation through Mr. Benoil Levy, head of the United Nations Organisation, Film Division?

(b) Are Government aware when such films were despatched from India to America?

(c) What action is proposed to be taken in the matter?

The Honourable Pandit Jawaharlal Nehru: (a) An article in the July issue of *Filmindia* has been brought to the notice of Government.

(b) I understand that these films were produced by the United Nations. The films were exhibited in India and were seen by some officials and others in New Delhi prior to their despatch to the United Nations in the United States of America.

(c) I have not myself seen these particular films but I have seen some films of rural India produced by the United Nations Organisation in India. I did not find anything objectionable in these latter films that I saw. The object was to portray certain aspects of Indian life and some of these aspects were not pleasant from the point of view of health conditions, child welfare, etc. They were not meant to give a comprehensive picture of Indian life as a whole. I would certainly not call them propaganda in the terms referred to by the honourable member. It is possible that some parts of them might well have been left out or shown differently. Opinions may well differ in regard to this.

I have consulted my colleague, the Health Minister, in this matter as the Health Ministry has been specially concerned with such films. Her opinion is that the criticism made in the *Filmindia* article is not justified and that is the opinion of some others also who have been consulted. Government, therefore, do not think that any action of the kind suggested is necessary.

I might inform the honourable member that Government operate a scheme of producing documentaries and exhibiting them abroad with a view to projecting India accurately and adequately in foreign countries. Many of these films have been greatly appreciated.

PAYMENT OF SAVINGS BANK DEPOSITS AND NATIONAL SAVINGS AND POST OFFICE CASH CERTIFICATES PURCHASED IN PAKISTAN

779. ***Giani Gurmukh Singh Musafir:** (a) Will the Honourable Minister of Relief and Rehabilitation please state whether it is a fact that a Press Note was issued on the 8th November, 1947, on the representations of the Punjab Rukshak Sabha, Sabzimandi, Delhi that the holders of Pass-Books of Savings Bank Accounts and National Saving Certificates could get postal payments and the holders of Post Office Cash Certificates purchased in Pakistan full payment on the execution of an Indemnity Bond?

(b) Is it a fact that the said Press Note was withdrawn on the 30th June, 1948, without a public notice, withholding payment even under Post Office Cash Certificates which had been 'transferred provisionally' and which the Pakistan authorities delayed to transfer formally, in spite of reminders from India?

(c) Are Government aware that the sudden withdrawal of the old Press Note has caused hardship to many refugees?

(d) Are Government aware that the said orders of the Ministry of Communications have caused widespread resentment and representations have been made to Government on the subject?

(e) If so, what action has been taken in the matter?

The Honourable Shri Mohan Lal Saksena: (a) Certain concessional withdrawals from Post Office Savings Bank Accounts and Cash and other Certificates were notified by the Director-General's Posts and Telegraphs Post Office Circular No 42, dated the 11th November, 1947. According to this, depositors of Saving Bank Accounts were allowed withdrawals up to a maximum of Rs. 500 on identification and up to Rs. 1,000 on production of Indemnity Bond. The holders of Cash and other Certificates were allowed payment up to Rs. 500 on identification and the entire amount on production of Indemnity Bond.

(b) The facilities have been withdrawn as the arrangement with Pakistan for transfer of holdings lapsed on 31st March, 1949.

(c) The position is that the balances in Saving Bank Accounts and certificates outstanding in Pakistan Post Offices are the liability of Pakistan Government and do not differ in any way from other properties or assets left in Pakistan. Government of India are not liable for these deposits and certificates.

(d) Several representations have been received.

(e) The Government of India have already addressed the Government of Pakistan in the matter but no reply has so far been received.

FACTORIES LEFT BY EVACUEES IN WESTERN PAKISTAN AND IN INDIA

780. *Sardar Hukam Singh: Will the Honourable Minister of Relief and Rehabilitation be pleased to state:

(a) the number of factories which non-Muslims owned in West Pakistan;

(b) the number of factories owned by Mualims who have migrated to West Pakistan;

(c) the number of factories mentioned in part (b) which have been allotted or leased out so far; and

(d) how many out of these have been allotted or leased out to refugees from West Pakistan?

The Honourable Shri Mohan Lal Saksena: (a) to (d). The information is being collected and will be laid on the table of the House in due course.

COMPENSATION TO REFUGEES FOR AGRICULTURAL LAND LEFT IN PAKISTAN

781. *Sardar Hukam Singh: Will the Honourable Minister of Relief and Rehabilitation be pleased to state:

(a) the total area of agricultural land left by Muslims, who migrated to West Pakistan, in India and the acceded States;

(b) the total area of such land left by non-Muslims in West Pakistan and States which have acceded to Pakistan;

(c) whether Government have any plans to compensate the poor refugees and

(d) whether Government propose to consider the advisability of compensating them to a certain extent by grant of Government-owned lands?

The Honourable Shri Mohan Lal Saksena: (a) and (b). The information is being collected and will be laid on the table.

(c) and (d). The honourable member is referred to the reply given by me to part (b) of Starred Question No. 11 by Sardar Bhopinder Singh Man on the 9th August, 1949.

IMPORT LICENSES FOR MACHINERIES

782. *Dr. P. S. Deshmukh: (a) Will the Honourable Minister of Commerce be pleased to state what machinery was imported during the years 1946-47, 1947-48 and 1948-49 up-to-date?

(b) What orders have been placed in foreign countries for machinery to be imported into India?

(c) What is the nature of this machinery?

(d) What is the total value of machinery expected to be imported from now up to 31st March, 1949?

(e) How much of this is on Government account?

(f) Do Government propose to import machinery for the manufacture of textile machinery?

(g) What steps, if any, have been taken by Government for the grant of import licences for machinery?

The Honourable Shri K. C. Neogy: (a) I lay on the table a statement giving value of imports of machinery and millwork during 1946-47, eight months ending November, 1947 and three months ending June, 1948. Figures giving breakdown under various heads of machinery as also figures for four months December, 1947 to March, 1948, are being collected and will be laid on the table as soon as possible.

(b) We have no information in regard to all the orders actually placed by the trade, as these orders are placed by importers and manufacturers direct after obtaining import licences. The total value of licences issued during 1946 and 1947 (statistics are compiled only by calendar years) was Rs. 83 crores (approximately) for Capital Goods, Rs. 6 crores (approximately) for Heavy Electrical Plants and Rs. 56 crores (approximately) for Machinery required for maintenance and for small industrial units. Information as to firm orders placed is available only in respect of licences for Capital Goods not delivered before the 1st July, 1947. The value of firm contracts made upto 15th March, 1948, for which deliveries were still outstanding is Rs. 46 crores. The difference between this figure and Rs. 83 crores of Capital Goods licences issued represents mostly orders already complied with and also licences which have not been utilised.

(c) Licences are issued for plant and machinery required for all industries, prominent amongst them are textiles, sugar, cement, engineering.

(d) It is difficult to frame an estimate as supplies depend on orders placed and the availabilities overseas. But during recent months, the value of machinery imported averages Rs. 4 to 5 crores a month.

(e) and (f). The information is being collected and will be laid on the table as early as possible.

(g) Licences for import of machinery are generally granted liberally. So far as Capital Goods are concerned, applications for import of Capital Goods for unplanned industries are considered on the basis of their general essentiality and the usefulness of the undertaking to the economy of the country; with regard to planned industries applications for import of Capital Goods are accepted only if the proposed undertaking conforms to the approved plans of industrial expansion for the particular industry. For maintenance and replacement and for small industrial units licences are granted liberally after a general scrutiny that the applicant is a *bona fide* importer or manufacturer.

Statement

Showing the total value of machinery and millwork imported into India from abroad during the year 1946-47, eight months ending November 1947 and three months ending June 1948.

	1946-47	Eight months ending November 1947.	Three months ending June 1948.
Machinery and Millwork.	Rs. crores. 31	Rs. crores. 32	Rs. crores. 20

NOTE.—The figures for the year 1946-47 and the 8 months ending November 1947 relate to British India before partition but exclude imports into the province of Sind and the part of Chittagong with effect from the 1st and the 15th August 1947 respectively. The figures for the 3 months ending June 1948 relate to the trade of the Indian Dominion with all foreign countries including Pakistan and are also inclusive of Government Stores which have been merged with Private merchandise with effect from the 1st April 1948.

EMPLOYMENT OF HOMOEOPATHIC DOCTORS

783. *Prof. Shibban Lal Saksena: (a) Will the Honourable Minister of Relief and Rehabilitation be pleased to state whether Government are aware that many highly qualified and experienced Homoeopathic doctors who have come from Pakistan, are not able to obtain allotment of shop for the practice of their profession?

(b) Do Government propose to consider the advisability of using their services in refugee camps or in other medical work under Government?

The Honourable Shri Mohan Lal Saksena: (a) Yes.

(b) The services of Homoeopaths are being utilized in some of the refugee camps. The question of providing employment to Homoeopaths is under the active consideration of the Government.

NEW PROVINCE COMPRISING EAST PUNJAB, DELHI, AJMER-MERWARA AND CERTAIN U. P. DISTRICTS

784. *Dr. P. S. Deshmukh: Will the Honourable the Prime Minister be pleased to state whether, Government have under examination a proposal for the constitution of a new province comprising of East Punjab, the Provinces of Delhi and Ajmer-Merwara and a few adjoining districts of the United Provinces?

The Honourable Pandit Jawaharlal Nehru: No.

EXPORT OF INDIAN TEA TO FOREIGN COUNTRIES

784-A. *Shri Upendra Nath Barman: (a) Will the Honourable Minister of Commerce be pleased to state whether Government propose to consider taking steps to regularise the export and supplies of tea to world's principal markets at a stabilized level of export prices?

(b) Have Government examined the warehousing, storage and distributing facilities which the tea industry possesses at present at Calcutta and Cochin Harbour, and the likely development of these facilities during coming years to meet the increasing demands of the tea trade?

(c) Do Government propose to consider the question of granting adequate loans to the Calcutta Port Trust authorities for constructing necessary storage facilities at the port to cater to the needs of the tea industry?

(d) What measures do Government propose to take to relieve the congestion of overseas export traffic in tea at the Calcutta Port?

The Honourable Shri K. C. Neogy: (a) The export and supplies of tea are already being regulated largely with a view to maintaining economic prices in world markets.

(b) to (d). Government have examined the question of the port and warehousing facilities that may be required in the future for the handling of tea in the Calcutta Port. The state of congestion depends upon a number of factors, *e.g.*, rail transport to Calcutta, Shipping from Calcutta port, the labour position and of course warehousing facilities. The position is still fluid and it is not possible to assess the long-term requirements of the industry in the matter of such facilities. No complaints regarding inadequacy of warehousing facilities have been received in the recent past. In all the circumstances it is not proposed at present to undertake any large scale construction of warehouses at that port. The question therefore of affording financial assistance to the Calcutta Port Trust for the construction of necessary storage facilities does not arise at this stage. As regards Cochin, no complaints have been received that the storage accommodation available there is insufficient. Distribution facilities at both these ports would also appear to be adequate.

DECLARATION FOR CITIZENSHIP BY REFUGEES IN EAST BENGAL

784-B. *Shri Upendranath Barman: Will the Honourable Minister of Law be pleased to state:

(a) whether Government are aware that under Memo. No. 938-A.R., dated 20th July, 1948, the Home Department of the Government of West Bengal requires that the declaration under Article (5) of the Draft Constitution for the citizenship of India, should be made in the form of an affidavit on an embossed stamp of Rs. 2;

(b) whether the abovementioned notification was issued with the concurrence of the Government of India;

(c) whether Government are aware that payment of this stamp duty and making such declarations before Magistrates is beyond the capacity of millions of refugees, and as such this is hampering the preparation of census statistics; and

(d) if so, whether Government propose to consider the desirability of simplifying the procedure?

The Honourable Shri N. V. Gadgil: (a) Yes.

(b) to (d). I understand that the Government of West Bengal was in correspondence with the Constituent Assembly Secretariat and that the Memorandum in question was issued in connection with the enrolment of persons in the electoral rolls. The declaration is not obligatory and so far as refugees are concerned, they are being enrolled free of charge on the strength of a mere declaration made by them indicating their intention to reside permanently in the locality to which the electoral roll relates, irrespective of their residence. Necessary verification as to their citizenship will be made at a later stage.

APPENDIX

[*Vide* reply to starred question No 747]

Serial No.	Ministry	The number and personnel of the various official delegations and missions deputed by Government to foreign countries since 1st January 1948, up-to-date.	Purpose of delegation	The amount charged to the Indian Exchequer on account of each of these delegations and missions	The results achieved by them.
1	2	3	4	5	6
1	Agriculture	(1) *Dr. P. V. Sukhatme, Statistical Adviser, Indian Council of Agricultural Research (LEADER).* (2) Mr. G. M. Sankpal, Director, Bureau of Economic and Statistics, Government of Bombay, Member.	To attend the Statistical Conference, Singapore—29th and 30th January 1948.	4,500	[Item (4) of Annex. 'B'].
2	Do.	(1) Dr. V. N. Patwardhan, Director, Nutritico Research Laboratory, Coonoor.	F. A. O. Nutrition Committee meeting held in Baguio—February 23rd—28th, 1948.	5,440	[Item (1) of Annex. 'B'].
3	Do.	(1) Dr. S. L. Hora, Director, Zoological Survey of India.	F.A.O. Fisheries Conference held in Baguio—February 23rd to 28th, 1948.	3,690	[Item (2) of Annex. 'B'].
4	Do.	(1) *Mr. S. Y. Krishnaswamy, O.B.E., I.C.S., Joint Secretary, Ministry of Agriculture (LEADER).* (2) Dr. V. N. Patwardhan, Director, Nutritico Research Laboratory, Coonoor (Adviser). (3) Dr. K. Ramiah, Director, Central Rice Research Institute, Cuttack (Adviser). (4) Mr. J. S. Raj, Deputy Economic Statistical Adviser, Ministry of Agriculture (Adviser).	F.A.O. Rice meeting and meeting for the setting up of a Regional office of the F. A. O. in Far East held in Baguio. 1st to 13th March, 1948.	12,000	[Item (2) of Annex. 'B'].
5	Do.	(1) Mr. S. Y. Krishnaswamy, O.B.E., I.C.S., Joint Secretary, Ministry of Agriculture.	Second meeting of the Council of F. A. O., held in Washington 5th to 17th April, 1948.	Included in Item 6.	

1	2	3	4	5	6
6	Agriculture—contd.	(1) His Excellency Mr. Asaf Ali, India's Ambassador in U. S. A. (LEADER). (2) Mr. S. Y. Krishnaswamy, O.B.E., I.C.S., Joint Secretary Ministry of Agriculture (Adviser).	To attend the Extraordinary Special session of F. A. O. held in Washington—8th April 1948.	3,000 (including the expenditure against item 5).	
7	Do.	(1) Dr. J. N. Mukerjee, Director, Indian Agricultural Research Institute (LEADER). (2) Dr. T. J. Mirchandani, Agronomist, Indian Agricultural Research Institute, New Delhi (Member).	Specialist Conference on Tropical and Sub Tropical soils, London —14—24th June 1948.	[3,000	[Item (5) of Annex. 'B'].
	Do.	(1) Dr. H. S. Prithi, Plant Protection Adviser to the Government of India. (2) Dr. K. B. Lal, Entomologist to the Government of United Provinces, Lucknow.	Indian delegation to the 5th Commonwealth Entomological Conference, London, July 1948.	6,000 approximately.	[Items (6) and (7) of Annex. 'B'.]
	Do.	(1) Dr. K. D. Bagchee, Mycologist, Forest Research Institute, and Colleges, Debra Dun. (2) Dr. B. B. Mundkar, Deputy Director, (Mycology) Plant Protection and Quarantines, New Delhi.	Indian delegation to Commonwealth Mycological Conference, London—July 1948.	6,000 approximately.	
1	Finance .	(1) The Honourable Shri Shanmukham Chetty, Finance Minister (LEADER). (2) Sir Chintamani Deshmukh. (3) Shri V. K. Krishna Menon, (joined the talk at London). (4) Sir Purshotamdas Thakurdass. (5) Sir V. T. Krishnamachari. (6) Shri T. T. Krishnamachari. (7) Shri Lalji Mehrotra.	To settle their sterling balances with the Government of United Kingdom—May 1948.	£ 10,500	

2	Finance (Revenue Division).	Mr. Gopala Menon, Under Secretary, Ministry of External Affairs and Commonwealth Relations.	To attend the 3rd Session of U. N. Commission on Narcotic Drugs held in New York from 3rd May 1948 to 22nd May 1948.	He was already in U. S. A. in connection with Kashmir delegation.	Paras 2 (i) to 4 of C. B. R. O. M. No. F. 28 (30)-E. O./48, dated the 26th August 1948.
1	Information and Broadcasting.	1. Sir Ramaswami Mudalier (LEADER). 2. Mr. G. S. Bhalja. 3. Mr. P. C. Chaudhuri. 4. Mr. S. A. Brelvi. 5. Mr. D. B. Desai. *Alternates.* 6. Sir Dhiren Mitra. 7. Mr. Chandulal Shah. *Advisers.* 8. Mr. P. L. Bhaudari (Secretary General). 9. Mr. S. K. Kelelkar.	To discuss and formulate views concerning rights, obligations and practices which should be included in the concept of Freedom of Information-Geneva-23rd March to 21st April 1948.	The approximate cost is £ 3,602.4.0. This expenditure was incurred in Geneva. The expenditure incurred in U. K. on Air passages and tours is not known yet.	A report has since been prepared by the Secretary General of the Indian Delegation (Appendix 'C').
	Do.	1. Mr. Chaman Lal 2. Mr. M. L. Sastry.	To represent India at the Planning Committee of the International High Frequency Broadcasting Conference at Geneva and to visit the radio factories and broadcasting installations in France and Holland. 12th March 1948 to 14th June 1948.	14,000 (Full details not available).	Tentative proposals were made by the Planning Committee for drawing up an Assignment Plan for High Frequency Broadcasting. This will be followed up at the meeting to be held in Mexico.
1	Food	1. Mr. H. L. Khana	To settle outstanding points in regard to rice-maize barter agreement with Egypt and to supervise the delivery of maize to Egypt and shipping of rice from Egypt—Cairo (Egypt). (1) 11th February 1948 to 31st March 1948.	(1) 9,616.12.0	Improvement in quality of rice was secured by careful selection of lots of distinctly better specifications than the prescribed standard.
2	Do.	1. Mr. H. L. Khana.		(2) Not yet available.	2. Gain in quantity was secured by acceptance of cargoes with lesser refractions.

1	2	3	4	5	6
2	Food—contd.		(2) 22nd May 1948—not yet returned.		3. Despatch money was earned on the shipment of rice from Egypt by better supervision. 4. Deterioration of grain during voyage was protected by provision of adequate dunnage in the ship, which would not have been possible if the loading had not been supervised. 5. Leakage of grain was guarded against by ensuring better bagging and better stitching at the loading end. 6. Sweeping at the loading port which usually remain unreceived was duly collected and despatched. It has been estimated that, expressed in terms of money, the saving can reasonably be taken at Rs. 5·5 lakhs. 7. Valuable information regarding the availability of foodgrains, the trend of prices in Egypt, Abbyssinia and Middle East countries and their requirements of articles which India can supply to obtain foodgrains on barter basis were collected. (This visit is in connection with the shipment of 43,000 tons of rice from Egypt. The nature of savings expected have detailed in items 1 to 6 above.)

3	Food—contd.	1. Sir Datar Singh 2. Mr. A. L. Saksena.	To negotiate purchase of wheat and to settle outstanding disputes in regard to Indo-Australian wheat agreement-Canberra (Australia)—21st May 1948 to 5th July 1948.	14,000	In addition Mr. Saksena was able to obtain the following assurances from the Australian Government in the matter of supply of sub standard wheat :— (1) The proportion of sub standard wheat to be supplied to India will not exceed the proportion to be supplied to the other countries. (2) Individual cargoes of wheat would be arbitrated upon in London on land of samples drawn jointly by representatives of India and Australia.
4	Do.	1. Mr. J. Venugar (Already in U. S. A.) (LEADER.) 2. Mr. R. L. Gupta, Alternate delegate. 3. Mr. S. T. Raja (Already in U. S. A.) (Adviser.)	To attend the International Wheat conference held in Washington from 6th January to 15th March 1948.	12,401 12 0	The International Wheat agreement for 750,000 tons of wheat per year for 5 years at a price of 2·00 dollars to 1·10 dollars per bushel was signed. Unfortunately the agreement has since fallen through because it was not ratified within the specified time by the U. S. A.
1	Transport	(1) Mr. V. K. R. Menon, I. C. S., Secretary, Ministry of Communications. (2) Mr. A. A. Brown, Director, Traffic, Railway Ministry (Adviser).	To attend the second session of the Transport and Communications Commission of the United Nations held in Geneva—12th to 20th April 1948.	4,041.3.0 (nothing was spent on Mr. Menon's nomination as he was already in Switzerland in connection with the setting up a telephone factory in India).	To Transport Communications Commission is a Functional Commission of the Economic and Social Council. Many questions which are of interest to India were discussed, the most important being the setting up of a committee of transport experts to study the needs of Asian countries in the matter of transport development of rehabilitation. The proposal was accepted by the Commission and also by the ECAFE at Coty due to India's efforts.

1	2	3	4	5	6
1	Labour . .	(1) Deputy High Commissioner for India in London.	To attend the 2nd session of the permanent migration committee of the I. L. O. held in Geneva for about a week commencing on 23rd February 1948.	Not available .	The results achieved by attending Labour Conferences held abroad are not such as can readily be measured. The
2	Do. . .	(1) Mr. D. B. Desai, India's Envoy Extraordinary and Minister Plenipotentiary in Switzerland. (2) Mr. S. P. Saksena, Director, Labour Conferences, Ministry of Labour.	To attend the 104th session of the governing body meeting of the I. L. O. held in Geneva from 15th March 1948 for about 10 days.	Do. .	labour policy of the Government is based largely on the results of such Conferences and recent Labour legislation in India bears testimony to this. In particular, the Conventions and Recommendations evolved at the annual Sessions of the I. L. O. form the basis of much progressive legislation in most countries.
3	Do. . .	(1) Hon'ble Pandit Brindaband Jha, Minister of Health, Government of Bihar. (2) Mr. S.S. Bajpai, Indian Government Trade Commissioner in Paris. NOTE.—In addition to the above one representative of the Employers and 2 of the Workers also participated expenses for whom are borne by I. L. O.	To attend the I.L.O. Industrial Committee on Chemical Industries held in Paris from 6th April 1948 for about 2 weeks.	Not available .	
4	Do. .	(1) Hon'ble Shri Sampurnanand, Minister of Labour, U. P. (2) Mr. S. Lall, C.I.E., I.C.S., Secretary, Ministry of Labour. *Substitute Delegates.* (1) Hon'ble Pityanand Kanungo, Minister of Labour, Orissa. (2) Prof. N. G. Ranga, Member C.A.	To attend the 31st session of the International Labour Conference held in San Francisco from 17th June to 11th July 1948.	Do. .	

		Advisers. (1) Shri K. T. Bhashyam Member of Law and Labour, Mysore. (2) Dr. N. Das, I. C. S., Director General of Resettlement and Employment, Ministry of Labour. (3) Mr. K.G. Menon, I.C.S., Secretary to the Government of Madras, Department of Labour. (4) Mr. S. P. Saksena, M.A., B. Com., Director, Labour Conferences, Ministry of Labour. NOTE.—In addition to the above there were 5 representatives of the Employers and 5 of the Workers.			
1	Commerce	(1) R. G. Saraiya Esqr., O. B. E., Vice President I. C. C. C. (LEADER), (2) C. S. Patel, Esqr., M. L. A., Bombay. (3) Dr. V. G. Panse, Deputy Director (Research), Institute of Plant Industry, Indore. (4) N.G. Abhyankar Esq., Deputy Secretary to the Government of India, Ministry of Food—*Secretariat*.	To participate in the deliberation of the 7th meeting of the International Cotton Advisory Committee of which India is a member. The meeting was called to review the World Cotton situation. It was held in Cairo and Alexandria (Egypt) from 31st March to 8th April 1948.	About	10,200	The discussions and personal contacts made by our delegates resulted in a better appreciation of the present World Cotton situation, our trade prospects and the measures required for the improvement of the Internal Cotton situation of this country.
2	Do.	*Mr. V. K. Krishna Menon*, High Commissioner for India in London—(LEADER). (2) Sir Raghavan Pillai, Indian Charge d' Affaires, Paris—*Alternate Leader*. (3) Mr. M. A. Master, Scindia Steam Navigation Co. Ltd.—*Deputy Leader*.	To attend the International Conference for the Safety of Life at sea, 1948, held in London from 23rd April to 10th June, 1948. This Conference was convened to consider revision of the International Convention for the Safety of Life at Sea, 1929, to which India is a party.	Not yet available .		The Conference adopted revised conventions concerning safety of Life at Sea which has been signed by the Indian delegation subject to ratification by the Government of India. The main proposal which India made and which she had special interest was accepted.

1	2	3	4	5	6
		(4) Mr. R. S. Mani, Deputy High Commissioner for India in London. (5) Captain SAT Bullock, Nautical Adviser to Government of India, Bombay. (6) Lt. Commander T. B. Bose, Principal Engineer and Ship surveyor, Mercantile Marine Department, Calcutta. *Advisers.* (7) Mr. T. Hunter, Naval Architect of the Scindia Steam Navigation Co. Ltd., London. (8) Mr. R. E. Kamana, Chairman of the Scindia Steam Navigation Co. Ltd., London. (9) Mr. R. A. L. Gonet of the Office of High Commissioner for India, London (Secretary).			viz., recognition in the body of the Conventions the continuance of the Special rules in respect of construction and life saving appliances of unberthed passenger ships.
Do		*Official* (1) Sir Raghavan Pillai, K.C.I.E., C.B.E., I.C.S. (2) L. K. Jha, Esqr., M.B.E., I.C.S. *Non-official.* (3) M. A. Master Esqr. (4) Sir A. Ramaswamy Mudaliar.	To attend the International shipping Conference held in Geneva from 19th February to the end of March 1948.	Not yet available	The Conference was convened to discuss the question of establishment of inter-Governmental Maritime Organisation and its scope and function. The main proposal which the India delegation was instructed to place before this Conference was that the scope and functions of the proposed organisation should not affect the right of the member governments to assist their own shipping by such measures as they deem fit to adopt.

Commerce—*contd.*					As a result of the discussions at the Conference, the Indian delegation was able to get their proposal accepted to a large extent, and the necessary modifications made in the Convention. India has also been elected as a member of the Preparatory Committee of Governments which has been set up by the Conference and which will be responsible for arranging for the first meeting of the Assembly of the Organisation as soon as it comes into being after the Convention has been duly signed and ratified by the prescribed minimum number of member governments.
4	Ditto	(1) Mr. C. C. Desai, C.I.E., I.C.S., Secretary, Ministry of Commerce. (2) Mr. B. N. Banerjee, M. B. E., Deputy Secretary, Ministry of Commerce. (3) Mr. B. Das Gupta, Secretary to Government of West Bengal, Finance Department.	On 31st. July 1948 a delegation was sent to Karachi to discuss with Pakistan Government the question of ensuring export of 50 lakh bales of raw jute from Pakistan to India.	Rs. 1,245 4 0	The delegation discussed with the representatives of the Pakistan Government the method to be followed in respect of export of raw jute promised under the Karachi agreement of May 1948 from Pakistan to India. The delegation was successful in securing Pakistan Government's agreement to allow such exports freely to India, while exports to other soft currency areas were to be subjected to quota licenses, the quota being fixed at a level so as to ensure that the quantities

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1	2	3	4	5	6
					earmarked for India would be readily available for export to this country.
5	Commerce—contd.	(1) Mr. S. K. Kirpalani, C.I.E., I.C.S. (2) Mr. K. N. Kaul, Deputy Secretary, Ministry of Finance.	Commonwealth Conference held in Tokyo, during July/August 1948, to arrive at an overall sterling area trade arrangement with SCAP.	Not yet available	The negotiations have not been concluded and the proposal of the delegation is under the consideration of the Government of India.
6	Ditto	(1) Mr. Kasturbhai Lalbhai (2) Mr. J. P. Patel (3) Mr. N. L. Kamoria. (4) Mr. Debesh C. Ghose. (5) Mr. T. P. Barat, Textile Commissioner to the Government of India.	An Indian delegation was sent to Cairo, to negotiate the purchase of long staple cotton in return for Indian Commodities such as Jute, tea and oil seeds, the delegation left India (Bombay) on 16th June, 1948.	Rs: 12,500	The discussion had to be broken off temporarily pending consultation with the Government of India. It is hoped to renew the talks at a later and convenient date.
		Official members.			
7	Ditto	(1) Mr. L. K. Jha, M.B.E., I.C.S., Ministry of Commerce (LEADER). (2) Dr. D. P. Antia, Sc.D. (HIT) (U. S. A.) MIM (Lond.), MI & SA (Lond), Development Officer (Metals). Ministry of Industry and Supply.	The Indian Trade Delegation to Germany, Czechoslovakia and France.	Not yet known. (Non-official members incurred their own expenses).	The Trade Delegation concluded a trade agreement with the Anglo-American Zone of Germany details to which have already appeared in the press. The results of negotiations with the Soviet Zone of Germany Czechoslovakia and France are under consideration.
8	Ditto	(1) Sir Raghavan Pillai, Charge d'Affaires, Paris. (2) Mr. C. C. Desai, Secretary, Ministry of Commerce. (3) Mr. B. N. Adarkar, Deputy Economic Adviser to the Government of India. (4) Major Highness the Maharaja of Alirajpur, Honorary Secretary.	3rd Session of the contracting parties to the General Agreement on Tariffs and Trade and the 2nd Session of the Executive Committee of the Interim Commission of the International Trade Organisation which commenced at Geneva on the 16th and 25th August 1948 respectively.	Not yet available as the Conferences are not over so far	The delegation has not yet returned.

1	Communications	(1) Mr. V. K. R. Menon, Secretary to the Government of India, Ministry of Communications. (2) Mr. R. Natranjan, General Manager, Telephones, Bombay.	On visit to Switzerland and United Kingdom during the period 28th March 1948 to 31st May 1948 for finalising arrangements for setting up a telephone factory in India for the manufacture of Telephone equipment.	Rs. 8,467 2 0	An agreement has been executed with the Automatic and Electric Company Ltd. regarding establishment in India of a factory for the manufacture of automatic telephone and carrier equipment.
2	Ditto	(1) Mr. V. K. R. Menon, Secretary to the Government of India, Ministry of Communications.	To represent the Government of India at the meeting of Commonwealth Communications Council held in London from 12th to 27th June 1948.	Rs. 6,000	The Commonwealth Communications Council made various recommendations regarding Telecommunications matters of common interest and they are being examined by the Ministry of Communications.
3	Ditto	(1) Mr. S. Banerji, Deputy Director General, Posts & Telegraphs.	On deputation with International Frequency Registration Board to allot Radio Frequencies to all countries—Geneva for 5 years from January 1948.	Entire cost to be borne by the International Tele-Communications Union.	
4	Ditto	(1) Rao Bahadur S. S. Moorthy Rao. (2) Mr. V. Sundaram.	To join Provisional Frequency Board, Geneva, to prepare allotment of radio frequencies to all countries for final approval of the International Frequency Registration Board for 1 year from January 1948.	Rs. 80,000 (approximately)	The meetings of the board are still in progress. About 2,500 radio frequencies have been registered from India.
5	Ditto	(1) Mr. H. N. Srivastava (2) Mr. P. Mukandan (3) Mr. S. K. Rama.	Visit to London for finalising arrangements for establishment of an automatic Telephone Manufacturing Factory in India for (1) 2 months from 30.5.48 (2) and (3)—3 months from 3.5.48.	Rs. 15,000 (approximately).	The schedule of Telephone equipment to be manufactured in India was finalised and the details settled with the A.T.E. Company Ltd. regarding the type of equipment etc.
6	Ditto	Mr. R. K. Nehru	For discussions with the High Commissioner for India in U.K. and the U. K. Ministry of Civil Aviation regarding India/U.K. bilateral agreement for air transport agreement recruitment of Technical personnel for the C.A. Department about 1 week from 1.2.48.	Not available	The draft bilateral agreement proposed by the Government of India was discussed and the few important points of divergence were brought out.

1	2	3	4	5	6
7	Communications—contd.	(1) Mr. Sri Prakasa (2) Mr. K. V. Venkatachalam (3) Mr. P. K. Roy.	For negotiations for the conclusion of a bilateral agreement for Air Transport Services between India and Pakistan to Karachi for the period 30-5-48 to 5-6-48.	Rs. 1,627 (approximately)	Agreement was reached on almost all the clauses of the draft bilateral Air Transport Agreement.
8	Ditto	(1) R.B. N. G. Ghosh (2) Mr. D. Chakervarti. (3) Mr. P. K. Roy. (4) Mr. N. V. S. Iyengar.	To attend meetings connected with the Second Assembly of the International Civil Aviation Organisation held in Geneva from 1st to 26th June 1948.	Rs. 21,000	A Convention on the International Recognition of Rights in Aircraft was evolved and opened for signature. The budget of the Organisation was passed and the scale of contribution of the member states fixed. The compositions of the Air Navigation Commission was settled and decisions were taken on many technical matters.
9	Ditto	(1) Mr. A. K. Roy, Regional Director, India Meteorological Department.	To attend meetings of the South West Pacific Regional Commission of the International Meteorological Organisation held in Wellington (New Zealand) from 12-4-48 to 17-4-48.	Rs. 5,000	Co-ordination of meteorological arrangements for air services and shipping between Indian region and the South West Pacific region.
10	Ditto	(1) Capt. S. C. Sen Gupta, B.A. (2) Major Maheshwar Dayal, M.A.	To examine the British Post Office methods of work in United Kingdom for a period of 3 months.	Rs. 18,800	The delegation has not yet completed its work.
11	Ditto	(1) Dr. S. K. Banerji, Director General of Observatories.	To attend the meeting of the Executive Council of the International Meteorological Organization held in Oslo (Norway) from 12th to 17th August 1948.	Rs. 4,000 (approximately)	Dr. S. K. Banerji is one of the 7 elected members of this Executive Council. He was to represent the interests of India at this important body at which measures for world wide co-operation in (i) mutual exchange of weather information and (ii) uniformity in meteorological procedures throughout the world are discussed and arranged.

4	Ditto	(1) Mr. Krishna Prasada, O.I.E., I.C.S., J.P., Director General of Posts and Telegraphs.	(1) To represent India in the Executive and Liaison Committee of the Universal Postal Union at Berne and (2) To finalize arrangements for the printing of Mahatma Gandhi Mourning Stamps and the permanent series of the National Stamps of India.	All cost paid by the International Postal Congress.	(1) India being a member of the Committee participated in the deliberations and important postal matters such as reduction in the rate of conveyance of air mails by air companies, priority of air mails over passengers creation of a postal administration of the U.N.O. etc. were discussed and decisions taken in regard to them. (2) Arrangements for the printing of Gandhi Memorial Funds were finalised.
1	Defence	(1) Mr. H. M. Patel (2) Mr. M. K. Chanda. (3) Gen. C. R. R. Bucher.	To discuss Defence matters with the authorities in the United Kingdom for 13 days during February 1948.	Not available	His Majesty's Government were most co-operative and the visit was of great value.
1	Ministry of External Affairs and Commonwealth Relations (E.A. Wing.)	1. Mr. N. Gopalaswami Iyengar, Minister Without Portfolio Leader). 2. Mr. M. C. Setalvad. 3. Mr. M. K. Vellodi, I.C.S., O.S.D. in the Ministry of E.A. and C.R. 4. Mr. P. N. Haksar in the Ministry of E.A. and C. R. 5. Mr. C. Parthasarathy, P. S. to the leader of the delegation. 6. Mr. Shelvankar, Deputy Principal Information Officer. 7. Sheikh Mohd. Abdulla, Prime Minister, Kashmir.	Delegation to the Security Council in connection with the Kashmir question.	Rs. 2,73,000	India's case was explained and the charges of Pakistan refuted. The Security Council have as a result of the discussion sent a Commission for investigating the situation and if possible bring about a solution to that problem. The Commission has conferred with the Government of India and Pakistan and has studied the military situation through certain observers.

1	2	3	4	5	6
	Ministry of E.A. and C.R. (E.A. Wing)—*contd.*	8. Mr. J. N. Zutshi, Secretary to the Prime Minister of Kashmir. 9. Dr. P. P. Pillai, Permanent Representative of India with the United Nations, New York. 10. Sir G. S. Bajpai, Secretary General, Ministry of E.A. and C.R. 11. Mr. M. N. Buch, I.C.S., Regional Commissioner for States, Rajkot. 12. Mr. B. L. Sharma, Deputy Secretary, Ministry of Information and Broadcasting. 13. Mr. M. G. Menon, Under Secretary, Ministry of E.A. and C.R. 14. Mr. J. S. Mehta, P.S. to S. G., Ministry of E.A. and C.R.			
2	[illegible]	1. Sir G.S. Bajpai 2. Dr. P. P. Pillai, Representative 3. Mr. M. Gopala Menon, Alternate.	Indian delegation to the 2nd Special Session of the General Assembly held in New York from 16th April to 14th May 1948.	Rs. 850-4-0 only representing daily allowance, car hire, telephone charges etc., Sir. G. S. Bajpai and M. Gopala Menon were already in New York in connection with Kashmir dispute.	India is not directly concerned with Palestine. A Mediator for Palestine was appointed to secure a truce in Palestine. It is satisfying to note that the mediator appointed by the U. N. have suggested a formula for Palestine problem, which bears great resemblance to the plan originally advocated by India.
3	Ditto (C.S. Wing)	1. Mr. C. C. Desai, Secretary to Ministry of Commerce, Leader. 2. Mr. S. A. Venkataraman, Secy., Ministry of I. & S. 3. Mr. Vishnu Sahai, Secretary, Ministry of Food. 4. Mr. B. R. Sen, Secretary, Ministry of Agriculture. 5. Mr. P. C. Bhattacharya, Joint Secretary, Ministry of Finance.	To negotiate mutual supply of essential commodities required by two Dominions at Karachi on 24th and 28th May 1948.	Rs. 6,000 excluding the travelling expenses paid by the respective Ministries.	Certain decisions were made and the agreement has since been ratified. (Copy attached as Annex.-A.)

		Advisers 6. Mr. A. N. Sattanathan, Central Board of Revenue. 7. Mr. S. Ranthalingam, Industry and Supply. 8. Mr. L. K. Jha (C. C. Imports). 9. Mr. Banerjee, B. N. (Commerce). 10. R.B. A. N. Puri (Finance). 11. Mr. T. M. Gulhanani (Food). 12. Mr. T. C. Randu (Agriculture).			
4	Ministry of E.A. & C.R.	1. Mr. R. K. Nehru (Representative). 2. Mr. Karmarkar (Alternate).	To attend the 3rd Session of the Economic and Employment Commission (19th April to 8th May, 1948.)	Rs. 2,500 (Passage cost met by U.N.O.)	These are functional Commissions of the ECOSOC and India's participation has assisted us in obtaining greater knowledge in these fields and in explaining the special problem of India to other countries.
5	Ditto	1. Mr. P. C. Mahalanobis (Representative).	3rd Session of the Statistical Commission April 1948.	Rs. 1,500 (Cost of passage met by U.N.O.)	
6	Ditto	1. Mrs. Hansa Mehta (Representative.) 2. Mr. D. N. Mitra (Legal Adviser)	3rd Session of the Commission on Human Rights May/June 1948.	Rs. 11,000 (Cost of passages met by U.N.O.)	
7	Ditto	1. Dr. V. K. R. V. Rao	2nd Session of the Sub-Commission on the Economic Development.	All expenses were borne by U.N.O.	
1	Railways	1. Mr. K. C. Rakhle, Chief Commissioner of Railways.	Went on a mission to U.S.A., U.K. and certain other countries in Europe for ascertaining spare capacity availability in the various locomotive building works.	Information awaited from our Embassies abroad.	He has obtained the necessary information and his report is under consideration by the Government of India. It is premature to judge the results that have actually been achieved.
1	Education	1. Dr. S. K. Banerji, Director General of Observatories. 2. Dr. D. N. Wadia, Mineral Adviser to the Government of India. 3. Mr. B. L. Gulatee, President, Survey Research Institute, Dehra Dun.	To attend the meeting of the International Union of Geodesy and Geophysics held in Oslo (Norway) from August 19th to 28th, 1948.	Not yet known	Work is not yet completed.

1	2	3	4	5	6
	Education—contd.	1. Dr. B.S. Guha, Director, Deptt. of Anthropology, Calcutta.	To attend the third session of the International Congress of Anthropological and Ethnological Sciences, held in Brussels and Tervuren from 15th to 23rd August 1948.	Not yet known	Work is not yet completed.
3	Ditto	1. Sir S. Radhakrishnan (Leader) 2. Dr. P. V. Kane. 3. Dr. S. K. Chatterji.	To attend International Oriental Congress, Paris, July 1948.	Ditto	Ditto.
4	Ditto	1. Mrs. P. Johari, Assistant Educational Adviser to the Government of India. 2. Col. Sohan Lal, Director, Bureau of Psychology, Lucknow (U.P.)	To attend the 11th International Conference on Public Education and UNESCO Seminar on the Education and Training of Teachers convened by UNESCO held on Geneva and London from 28th June to 15th July 1948.	Ditto	Ditto.
5	Ditto	1. Mr. M. S. Sundaram, Secretary, Education Department of the High Commissioner for India, London (to act as an observer).	To attend Preparatory Conference of the representatives of Universities convened by UNESCO at Utrecht (Netherlands) on 2nd to 13th August 1948.	Ditto	Ditto.
6	Ditto	1. Dr. S. K. Banerji, Director General of Observatories. Dr. J. H. Bhabha, Director of Tata Institute on Fundamental Research, Bombay.	To attend the High Attitude Research Conference convened by the UNESCO at Interlaken (Switzerland) from 31st August to 3rd Sept. 1948.	Ditto	Ditto.
7	Ditto	1. A representative from the Indembassy, Paris.	To attend the meetings of Technical Needs Commission on Press Radio and Films held in Paris from 2nd to 11th August 1948.	Ditto	Ditto.

1	2	3	4	5	6
1	Health	1. Sir Dhiren Mitra, Legal Adviser to the High Commissioner for India, London.	XVII International Red Cross Conference, Stockholm, Aug. 1948.	Not known	Will be known after the Conference.
2	Ditto	1. Dr. A. C. Vakil, Principal, Medical College, Calcutta. 2. Dr. M. N. Rao, Asstt. Professor Physiological and Industrial Hygiene, All India Institute of Hygiene and Public Health, Calcutta. 3. Dr. G. Sankaran, Professor, Biochemistry & Nutrition, All India Institute of Hygiene and Public Health, Calcutta. 4. Lt. Col. Jaswant Singh, Director, Malaria Institute of India (who has gone on a study tour of United Kingdom and U.S.A.).	Fourth International Congress on Tropical Medicine and Malaria, Washington, May 1948.	Rs. 12,200	In the case of delegation and deputations of this sort to medical and allied conferences estimation of tangible results is not possible as in the case of delegations and mission sent abroad for specific purposes, because of the fact that the results achieved are in the nature of considerable practical and the artical knowledge acquired by our delegates which is known to be immense to the country in the long run in the field of medical research and public health, administration.
3	Ditto	1. Dr. Dharamendra, Research Officer, Medical Research Deptt., at present Officer-in-charge, Leprosy Research Deptt. School of Tropical medicine, Calcutta.	The International Leprosy Congress Cuba, April 1948.	Rs. 17,350 out of the total estimated expenditure of Rs. 26,000 on account of Dr. Dharamendra's deputation and study tour in various countries will be met by the British Empire Leprosy Relief Association.	
4	Ditto	1. Dr. K. S. Ranganathan, Director B. C. G. Laboratory, Gindy (who is undergoing training in Copenhagen).	The First International B. C. G. Congress, Paris June, 1948.	Not known, estimated cost Rs. 1,500.	

APPENDIX

1	2	3	4	5	6
5	Health	Sir A. Lakshmanaswamy Mudaliar	Deputation to U.S.A. to study the various Medical Research Institutes.	Will be known only when he returns.	The knowledge gained will be useful to Committee of which Sir Lakshmanaswamy Mudaliar is Chairman, which has been appointed by the Ministry of Health to examine the question of upgrading certain Departments of Medical Colleges in India.
6	Ditto	Dr. G. H. Koesingabargur, Town Planning Adviser to the Government of Mysore.	Deputation to U.K. to contact leading manufacturers of pre-fabricated houses with a view to advise Government regarding the erection of factories for the construction of Pre-fabricated houses in India and attendance at the International Congress for Housing and Town planning at Zurich as an observer of the Government of India.	Information regarding expenditure not yet received from the High Commissioner for India in the United Kingdom.	An agreement is being entered into with a British firm for the setting up of a factory for the manufacture of pre-fabricated houses in India.
7	Ditto.	Lt.-Col. C. L. Pasricha, Medical Adviser to High Commissioner for U.K. in London (as representative of Government of India.)	Health Congress of Royal Sanitary Institute.	Not known	Same as for items 2—4.
8	Ditto	Major-General, Sir Sahib Singh Sokhey, Director Haffkine Institute, Bombay. 2. Dr. K. Ganapathy of Haffkine Institute, Bombay. 3. Dr. G. Sankaran of the A.I.I. of Hygiene and Public Health Calcutta.	Study of methods of manufacture of Penicillin and Sulpha Drugs etc.	Not known	Report not yet received.

	2	3	4	5	6
9	Health	Dr. Dhyagude (as representative of Government of India).	Conference for the Sixth Decennial Revision of the International lists of diseases and causes of deaths.	Not known	Decennial Revision of the International Statistical classification of Diseases, Injuries and causes of death was adopted at the International Conference and at the suggestion of the Indian Delegates it was agreed that the classification should be adopted by all participating countries as far as possible.
10	Ditto	*Delegates* 1. The Hon'ble Rajkumari Amrit Kaur, Minister for Health, Government of India, Chief Delegate. 2. Dr. Sir A. Lakshmanaswami Mudaliar, Vice Chancellor, Madras University Delegate. 3. Lt.-Col. C Mani, Dy. D.G.H.S. Delegate. *Alternates* 1. Sir Dhiren Mitra, Legal Adviser to High Commissioner for India in London. 2. Lt.-Col. C. L. Pasricha, Medical Adviser to the High Commissioner for India in London. *Advisers* 1. Dr. S. C. Sen, Radiologist, Delhi, and Vice President of the Indian Medical Association. 2. Lt.-Col. Jaswant Singh, Director, Malaria Institute of India.	Indian Delegation to the 1st World Health Assembly, Geneva.	Not yet known	(1) A seat for India has been secured on the Executive Board of the W.H.O. (2) The Assembly agreed to the establishment of the Headquarters of the Regional Organisation for South East Asia in India for the following Countries: India, Afghanistan, Ceylon, Burma and Siam.

1	2	3	4	5	6
1	Ministry of Works, Mines and Power.	1. Mr. A. N. Khosla, I.S.E., Chairman, Cwinc. 2. Mr. N. D. Gulhati, I.S.E., Secretary, Central Board of Irrigation. 3. Mr. K. M. Chinnappa, Project Officer, Damodar Valley, Project. 4. Mr. G. G. Dhanak, Executive Engineer, Bombay. 5. Mr. S. R. Mehra, Supdg. Engineer, East Punjab. 6. Mr. S. R. Krishnamurthy, General Superintendent, Power Dev., Madras. 7. Mr. P. C. Aggarwal, Chief Engineer, United Provinces. 8. Mr. A. Krishnamachar, Senior Executive Engineer, Mysore.	To attend:— 1. International Commission on large Dams—10th to 17th June 1948. 2. International Association of Hydraulic Structures—7th to 9th June 1948. 3. International Commission on Soil mechanics and Foundation Engineering—21st to 30th June 1948.	Not available	Report of the delegation has not so far been received so the results achieved cannot be made known.
2	Ditto	1. Dr. D. N. Wadia, Director, Indian Bureau of Mines.	To attend International Geological Congress to be held at London from August 25th to September 1st, 1948.	Rs. 7,000 approx.	Results achieved will be known on the return of Dr. Wadia.

APPENDIX 'A'

PRESS INFORMATION BUREAU

GOVERNMENT OF INDIA

Not to be Broadcast or Published before 5 p.m. on June 9, 1948

INDO-PAKISTAN AGREEMENT ON MUTUAL SUPPLY OF CERTAIN ESSENTIAL COMMODITIES

New Delhi, June 9.

An Agreement between India and Pakistan for the Mutual Supply of Certain Essential Commodities was signed in Karachi on May 26 by Mr. C. C. Desai, for the Government of India, and Mr. Mohd. Ali, for the Government of Pakistan. This Agreement has since been approved by both Governments.

The following is the text of the Agreement.

Agreement between India and Pakistan for the Mutual Supply of Certain Essential Commodities

The representatives of the Government of India and the Government of Pakistan having considered the requirements of essential commodities which each Dominion needs from the other have, subject to ratification by their respective Governments, agreed as hereunder.

1. The quantities of each commodity which each Dominion undertakes to make available to the other are stated in Annexures I and II. The Annexures also indicate the demands made by each Dominion in respect of each commodity and special features, if any.

2. Apart from the commodities listed in the Annexures I and II it was agreed to show the maximum consideration in facilitating the export of goods from one Dominion to the other. It was agreed that imported goods which had been shipped and paid for in either Dominion before the 31st of December 1947 out of the undivided exchange account will be allowed to be reexported to the other Dominion wherever it is established that the goods were originally intended for consumption in that Dominion.

3. The period of the agreement will be one year from 1st July 1948 to the 30th June of 1949 except as regards—

(a) raw cotton and cotton textiles, for which the agreement shall cover the period from 1st September 1948 to 31st August 1949; and

(b) food grains for which the agreement will be for the period 1st June 1948 to 31st August 1949.

4. With such exceptions as may be mutually agreed upon, supplies will ordinarily be made through commercial channels. Commodities which are not subject to *any* control either internally or for export present no problems. In the case of commodities which are not subject to internal control but are subject to export control, the supplying Dominion shall issue necessary export licences in such a manner that the export of the agreed quantities will be facilitated. In respect of commodities which are subject to internal as well as export control, the supplying Dominion shall either supply on a Government to Government basis or make specific allocations in conformity with their internal control as well as issue export licences.

5. In regard to raw jute, India agrees to restrict her exports of raw jute from the Indian Dominion to 9 lakhs of bales predominantly of the Indian varieties the bulk of which is not suitable for use in Indian Mills and is usually exported.

6. It is agreed that neither Dominion will re-export to any country any commodity imported from the other Dominion in the form in which it was imported.

7. Pakistan agrees to supply foodgrains to India at the same rate as is charged for supplies to its own deficit Provinces. India agrees to supply steel f.o.b. Calcutta at f.o.b. Calcutta prices. The freight will be borne by the buyers. India also agrees that the internal controlled price of coal and paper will continue to be charged for sales to Pakistan also. Supplies of coal to the Government of Pakistan will be paid for out of irrevocable credits to be opened by the Pakistan Government. Other supplies of coal to Pakistan will be made on payment by the purchasers in the usual manner. The prices indicated are exclusive of any export or import duties that may be levied by either Dominion.

8. It was agreed that subject to seasonal considerations each Dominion should spread its purchases as uniformly and conveniently as possible.

9. In order to implement the Agreement in a smooth and orderly way, it was agreed that monthly progress reports should be exchanged between the two Dominions, and that meetings between representatives of the two Dominions should be held every other month for this purpose.

10. During the currency of this agreement items may be added to or taken away from the lists of commodities included in the annexures by mutual agreement between the two Dominions.

C. C. DESAI. MOHD. ALI.

KARACHI,
Dated the 26th May 1948.

ANNEXURE No. I.

Requirements of Pakistan

S.No.	Commodity.	Pakistan's stated annual requirements.	Quantity agreed to by India.	Remarks.
1	2	3	4	5
1.	Coal .	3,400,000 tons.	183,000 tons per month (including as far as possible 5,000 tons of Hard Coke).	160,000 tons per month are firm. As for the balance of 23,000 tons, India will make every effort to move this quantity, subject to adequate transport being available, and will also invite the cooperation of Pakistan in this matter.
2.	Cloth and Yarn	400,000 bales .	400,000 bales .	One fourth of this total quantity would be in the form of yarn.
3.	Steel, pig iron and scrap.	313,720 tons .	15,000 tons per quarter plus 1,000 tons per quarter of Corrugated iron sheets plus 4,000 tons of pig iron per quarter.	.....
4.	Paper & Board.	20,700 tons .	6,000 tons of paper and 1,500 tons of board.	
5.	*Chemicals and Pharmaceuticals :—*			
	Sulphuric Acid.	2,000 tons		Will be examined in Delhi.
	Aluminium Sulphate.	2,000 ,,	.....	Do.
	Hydrochloric Acid.	270 ,,	270 tons.	
	Nitric acid .	200 ,,	200 ,,	
	Magnesium Sulphate.	800 ,,	800 ,,	
	Ferrous Sulphate.	400 ,,	.....	Will be examined in Delhi.
6.	Copper wire .	1,000 tons	Nil	.....
7.	Asbestos cement sheets.	5,000,000 sq. ft. (8,000 tons).	2,500 tons.	As regards the balance India will explore possibility of supplying [illegible]

1	2	3	4	5
8.	Paints, enamels and varnishes.	2,500 tons	2,500 tons	Detailed breakdown not yet furnished. While the overall quantity could be supplied, certain quantities may not be available and substitute would be suggested.
9.	Railway stores.	39,3 lakh rupees.	.....	Supplies may be available but details will be considered in Delhi.
10.	Tyres & tubes.	1,300,000 nos.		It should be possible to supply most of this requirements but detailed breakdown according to tyre size and quality required. Matter will have to be examined.
11.	Leather and footwear:—			
	Upper leather .	60,00,000 sq.ft.		It should be possible to meet this demand in full provided adequate quantities of hides are available.
	Sole leather .	75,00,000 lbs.		
	Lining leather .	4,00,000 lbs.	.....	
	Leather shoes .	6,00,000 nos.		
	Canvas for 3,00,000 shoes.			
12.	Hardwood .	5,00,000 c.ft. (10,000 tons)	Nil	India offered to supply instead 10,000 tons of Malabar jungale wood of which samples would be furnished to Pakistan.
13.	Jute manufactures.	50,000tons .	50,000 tons	.....
14.	Myrabollams .	2,000 ,,	2,000 ,,	
15.	Woollen and worsted goods.	11,00,000 lbs. .	11,00,000 lbs.	
16.	Mustard oil .	50,000 tons .	20,000 tons	.....
17.	Groundnut oil .	30,000 ,, .	5,000 ,,	.....
18.	Copra oil .	6,000tons .	Nil	.....
19.	Seed potatoes .		.....	Export would be allowed of local surpluses in both Dominions.
20.	Soap, Toilet .	2,000 tons .	2,000 tons	.....
21.	Tobacco (flue-cured).	7,00,000 lbs .	7,00,000 lbs.	.....
22.	Tea Chest .	3,00,000 pieces.	.....	The demand was put forward only in Karachi for the first time. Stated to be urgently required for the tea industry in East Bengal. Will be considered in Delhi.

C. C. DESAI
KARACHI;
Dated the 31st May 1948.

MOHD. ALI

ANNEXURE No. II

Requirements of India

S.No.	Commodity	India's stated annual requirements	Quantity agreed to by Pakistan	Remarks
1	2	3	4	5
1.	Raw Jute . .	1,000,000 tons. or 5,500,000 bales.	5,000,000 bales.	
2.	Raw Cotton .	900,000 ,,	650,000 ,,	The proportion of medium and long staple cotton to be decided later.
3.	Foodgrains . (a) Rice . . (b) Wheat .	100,000 tons. } 200,000 ,, }	175,000 tons	Pakistan agrees to supply 175,000 tons of food grains (mainly rice) unless there is a serious failure of crop i. e. to say if the rice crop is 4 annas or more below the average of past five years. Pakistan further agrees to do its best to improve upon this quantity.
4.	Gypsum . .	1,000 tons per day.	Rising to 1,000 tons per day under a programme to be mutually agreed upon.	.....
5.	Rosin . . .	4,000 tons.	Nil.	
6.	Raw hides and skins — (a) Cow hides (a) Buff hides (c) Skins . .	2,000,000 pcs. 500,000 ,, 1,500,000 ,,	1,000,000 pcs. 900,000 ,, 1,500,000 ,,	
7.	Rock salt . .	2,000,000 mds.	2,000,000 mds.	.....
8.	Soda Ash . .	10,000 tons.	.....	Factory is at present closed but is expected to get into normal production by end of 1948. It is hoped to meet India's demand in 1949.
9.	Potassium Nitrate	5,000 tons.	5,000 tons.	
10.	Cattle . . .	1,050 heads.	550 heads	.....

C. C. DESAI. MOHD. ALI.

KARACHI;
Dated the 26th May 1948.

ANNEXURE 'B'

INFORMATION RELATING TO PART (C) OF THE QUESTION

(1) *Indian delegation to the F. A. O. Nutrition Conference, Baguio.*—This Nutrition Conference was convened to consider nutrition problems in the East with special reference to rice. This Committee made many recommendations regarding the methods of improving the nutritional value of rice by parboiling, undermilling, etc., and rice diets and also as regard food composition the feeding of vulnerable groups, nutritional education, etc The recommendations of the Committee were considered at the subsequent F. A. O. Rice Conference. The recommendations requiring international action will be initiated by the Food and Agriculture Organisation and those affecting individual member Governments will be considered and given effect to wherever possible by the individual Governments. One of the important recommendations of the Committee was to convene a meeting of the experts on nutrition and allied subjects from the member countries of the region annually. This group will be concerned with the pooling of knowledge, the coordination of nutrition work in the region, with reviewing the development of national nutrition programmes and the progress of the F. A. O. regional organisation in this field and on advising Governments on nutritional questions through the regional F. A. O. Organisation. This Committee will be serviced by the staff of the regional F. A. O. office.

(2) *F. A. O. Fisheries Conference, Baguio.*—The meeting recommended that an Indo-Pacific Fisheries Council should be set up to study the various Fisheries problems of the Indo-Pacific seas on the lines of the International Council for the exploration of the Sea which functions in European waters. The F. A. O. will provide the Secretariat for the Council and its four interim Committees, namely Hydrology, Taxonomy, Biology and Technology Committees. The seat of the Indo-Pacific Fisheries Council will be at the seat of the Indo-Pacific Office. As desired by Member Governments, F. A. O. is planning the early establishment of this fisheries council and it is believed that its establishment will lead to the acquisition of knowledge of which will be of use in development of fisheries in India.

(3) *F. A. O. Rice Conference, Baguio.*—The meeting considered a three year programme for an expanding rice economy. The Rice meeting represented the first attempt to assemble and compare the plans and programmes for production and distribution in the principal rice-producing countries of the Far East. It was agreed that this activity should be extended and that further, there should be a periodic examination and revision of national production, consumption and distribution targets at the regional level. As a result of the deliberations of the Conference the F. A. O. has decided to set up an International Rice Council which will deal with at a regional level all matters relating to the production, distribution, marketing, etc., of rice and it is believed that for a rice producing and consuming country like India the activities of the Rice Council would be of considerable value.

(4) *South East Asia Statistical Conference.*—The Statistical Conference, South-East Asia Singapore, was of an exploratory nature and dealt with problems of Statistical methods as applied to the compilation of figures of rice production and consumption and the cost of living indices. The recommendations of the Conference, on which the F. A. O. had to take action were referred to the Rice meeting at Baguio. The F. A. O. have appointed Miss E. Tanburn as their Statistical consultant with an assignment to study the Statistical practices now being followed by the different South-East Asian countries and to help further the recommendations of the Rice Conference at Baguio which incorporate the recommendations of the Statistical Conference held at Singapore.

(5) *Commonwealth Conference on tropical and sub tropical soils.*—This was a technical conference on the methods of soil survey undertaken in different countries of the world for knowing the innate characteristics of the soil with a view to putting the soil to the best possible use. The recommendations of the Committee have not yet been received but tentative reports submitted by the delegation are under consideration. It is evident that the information given by the delegation would be of considerable value in deciding whether there should be a Soil Survey Organisation in India in the light of similar organisations in advanced countries.

(6) and (7) *Entomological and Mycological Conferences.*—These are again technical conferences and the experts who attended the Conference would no doubt be benefited from the experience and the exchange of information with experts from other countries. The report of the Conference has not yet been received.

UNITED NATIONS CONFERENCE ON FREEDOM OF INFORMATION

REPORT BY THE SECRETARY-GENERAL OF THE DELEGATION OF INDIA

CHAPTER I

PREAMBLE

1. In pursuance of Resolution 74 of the fifth session of the Economic and Social Council, the United Nations Conference on Freedom of Information met in inaugural plenary session at the European Headquarters of the United Nations in Geneva, Switzerland, on 23rd March 1948. The Conference lasted four weeks, terminating on the night of 21st April 1948. Delegations representing 54 Governments attended the Conference. Observers from three other Governments and observers and consultants from eight intergovernmental and non-governmental organisations, also attended

2 The Government of India Delegation was composed as follows :

Delegates:

Sir Ramaswami Mudaliar (*Leader*).

Mr. G. S. Khaliq.

Mr. P. C. Chaudhuri.

Mr. S. A. Brelvi.

Mr. D. B. Desai.

Alternates:

Sir Dhiren Mitra.

Mr. Chandulal Shah.

Advisers:

Mr. P. L. Bhandari (*Secretary-General*).

Mr. S. K. Kalelkar.

3. The Conference elected Ambassador Carlos P. Romulo (Philippines) as President. Delegates representing Canada, China, Cuba, France, the U. S. S. R., the United Kingdom, and the United States of America were elected Vice-Presidents. The chief delegate of India was elected Chairman of one of the four principal Committees.

4. The Conference adopted as Agenda the Provisional Agenda proposed by the Economic and Social Council, with the addition of the two resolutions referred to the Conference by the General Assembly, on measures to be taken against propaganda and the inciters of a new war and false or distorted reports and two proposals made by the International Organisation of Journalists.

5. The Conference adopted as its Rules of Procedure the Draft Rules of Procedure prepared by the Secretary-General of the United Nations at the request of the Economic and Social Council. When challenged, the decision of the Council that voting rights at the Conference be exercised only by members of the United Nations was reaffirmed.

6. The Conference set up the following Committees :

(a) Four principal Committees, upon which each Delegation was invited to be represented :

(i) *Committee I*, on "the basic tasks of the press and other media of information and the basic principles of freedom of information, as well as general problems common to other Committees".

Dr. G. J. van Heuven Goedhart (Netherlands) was elected Chairman of this Committee, which held 31 meetings.

(ii) *Committee II*, on "the gathering and international transmission of information".

Dr. Vladislav Ribnikar (Yugoslavia) was elected Chairman of this Committee, which held 22 meetings.

(iii) *Committee III*, on "the free publication and reception of information".

Dr. Raul Noriega (Mexico) was elected Chairman of this Committee, which held 18 meetings.

(iv) *Committee IV*, on "law and continuing machinery".

Sir Ramaswami Mudaliar (India) was elected Chairman of this Committee, which held 27 meetings.

(b) a General Committee (Bureau), comprising the President of the Conference, the Vice-Presidents, and the Chairmen of the four principal Committees;

(c) a Credentials Committee.

7. The Conference resolved:

(i) that all documents passed by the Conference, Resolutions or Draft Conventions, be referred to the Economic and Social Council for study at its next session;

(ii) that all Governments invited to this Conference be requested to forward to the Secretary-General of the United Nations before 6th July 1948 their comments on the Draft Conventions proposed by the Conference and proposals for other Draft Conventions based on the recommendations of this Conference;

(iii) that the Economic and Social Council be requested to examine, at its seventh session, the Draft Conventions referred to it by the Conference in the light of such comments and other proposed Draft Conventions as provided in paragraph 2, and to submit to the General Assembly, at its third session, Draft Conventions which may thereafter be opened at that session for signature or accession by those States entitled and willing to become parties thereto and remain open subsequently for additional accessions.

8. On the basis of the deliberations of the Conference and its Committees, the Conference prepared and forwarded to the Economic and Social Council the Draft Conventions referred to above.

9. At the request of the Economic and Social Council, the Conference also prepared draft articles for the Draft Declaration on Human Rights and the Draft Convention on Human Rights.

10. In addition, the Conference adopted 43 Resolutions.

(The texts of the Draft Conventions, the draft articles for the Draft Declaration on Human Rights and the Draft Covenant on Human Rights, and the 43 resolutions referred to in paragraphs 8, 9 and 10 above are appended to this Report as Annexes A, B and C respectively.)

CHAPTER II

Review

At the close of the Conference the opinion of the majority was that, in spite of unresolved differences which still divided the Delegations, something constructive had resulted from the meeting—something more had been achieved than many of its most optimistic supporters had dared to hope.

It is perhaps pertinent to recall at the outset the circumstances in which the Conference was held. The quick march of recent events had caused international tension, even crisis—over developments in Czechoslovakia, for example, and in Berlin. The impending elections in Italy were giving rise to anxiety. And the overall picture was darkened by the shadow of prospects in Palestine. In such an atmosphere there appeared to be little hope of any general agreement and it was obvious that there would develop an early conflict of views on fundamental issues.

In retrospect, therefore, the achievements of the Conference were considerable. For the first time, positive measures were recommended to set up continuing international machinery in the information field; the three Conventions which were adopted were described as practical, even though limited; and in the various resolutions attention was drawn to the principal obstacles to the free flow of information and suggestions made for removing them.

The major achievement of the Conference, surpassing the expectations of most participants, was the rallying of a large majority of Delegations to the three Conventions—(a) on the gathering and international transmission of news; (b) on the institution of an international right of correction (of false and distorted reports likely to injure the friendly relations between States); and (c) on freedom of information. These, as all other Conference decisions, will go to the Economic and Social Council for transmission to the United Nations General Assembly next September.

None of the three Conventions gained unanimous acceptance; the U. S. S. R. and other Eastern European Governments voted against all of them, and the United States abstained in the voting on the Convention on freedom of information.

The view was expressed that the real difference dividing the Conference was between those who wished to define the "freedoms of the press" and those who wished to define the "functions of the press". Most of the delegates endorsed the view that if a really free press existed, abuses of that freedom would find automatic correctives and that therefore the task of the Conference was to make information free.

Contrariwise, it was held by some delegations that such was not the experience of the past and that it was necessary to give the press concrete directives in order to ensure that it would perform constructive social functions on both the national and international planes. This fundamental difference of approach kept the Conference broadly divided from the beginning to the end. Minor concessions were made from time to time, but frequently these served to emphasise rather than diminish the underlying disagreement.

Of the 43 resolutions passed, one of the most important endorsed and elaborated those resolutions adopted by the second General Assembly, concerning propaganda designed or likely to provoke or encourage any threat to peace, breach of peace or act of aggression, and on the spreading of false and distorted reports. This resolution, in the formulation of which the Indian Delegation played a leading part, was adopted unanimously. It appealed vigorously to the press of the world to promote peace and understanding between peoples and recommended that all countries take within their respective territories measures they consider necessary to give effect to it.

The Conference further recommended that the Economic and Social Council's Sub-Commission on freedom of Information should consider appropriate means to co-ordinate the steps taken to carry out the provisions of the resolution. From this came one of the Conference's most far-reaching decisions—the extension for three years of the life of the Sub-Commission on Freedom of Information and the wide powers given to it to continue work which the Conference obviously could not do in one month. By the terms of reference proposed for the Sub-Commission, the hope was clearly implied that the relationship between significant news and distortion; between sound reporting and coloured writing; between professional integrity and unbridled mercenary journalism; and between a high sense of responsibility and mere sensationalism, may be established in a form acceptable to all nations.

CHAPTER III.

PART OF THE INDIAN DELEGATION

The Delegation of India played an important and effective part in the deliberations of the Conference: their contribution inspired an American commentator to report that "leadership at international conferences is noticeably shifting from West to East, and in this leadership India is playing an outstanding role". Standing head and shoulders above all personalities was India's chief representative, Sir Ramaswami Mudaliar, to whose experience and sagacity tributes were paid in all quarters and whose counsel and advice were much sought after.

The division of duties of the Indian Delegation in the principal Committees was effected as follows:

Committee I.—("Basic Tasks, etc."),

Mr. G. S. Bhalja (main representative).
Mr. D. B. Desai.
Sir Ramaswami Mudaliar (also Chairman of Committee IV).

Committee II.—("Gathering and International Transmission, etc.").

Mr. P. C. Chaudhuri (main representative).
Mr. P. L. Bhanderi.
Mr. Chandulal Shah.

Committee III.—("Free Publication and Reception, etc."),

Mr. S. A. Brelvi (main representative).
Mr. Chandulal Shah.
Mr. P. C. Chaudhuri.

Committee IV.—("Law and Continuing Machinery").

Sir Dhiren Mitra (main representative).
Mr. D. B. Desai.
Mr. S. D. Kalelkar.

India's case was stated brilliantly by Sir Ramaswami Mudaliar in the course of an inaugural speech in Committee I during discussion of the basic tasks of the press and other media of information. It was in this speech that the chief Indian delegate made his call for a code of honour for journalists which subsequently received world-wide interest and acclaim.

"*We believe.....*"

Sir Ramaswami Mudaliar declared, *inter alia:*

"What we have to examine at this Conference is how to remove in every country those impediments to the free gathering and free dissemination of news, whether they come from one source or another, and how to attain that perfection which will enable all people to receive correct information not only about themselves but about their neighbours all over the world.....

"My people and my Government believe in freedom of information. They want to ensure complete freedom of information as far as possible, subject only to those well-understood limitations bearing on public morality, public decency, and the ordinary state of the people themselves—limitations which are intended to serve the purpose of ensuring the freedom of the individual for which a free press exists. Beyond that we do not want to lay any limitations.....

"Rights and obligations, privileges and duties, go together. Therefore, whether it is the press or the film, or the broadcast, in ensuring the rights that they should have for the proper dissemination of news on the widest possible basis, there should also be an ensurement that their responsibilities are adequately understood.....

"Is it too much to expect that the time has come when a code of honour may be drawn up for the learned profession of journalism? Can my journalistic friends, beyond all the associations that they now have, make a body of rules to regulate their own conduct? I think that the time has come when they should take that step.....

"This is a unique Conference insofar as it comprises all those organisations which are concerned with moulding and shaping and formulating public opinion—in fact, all those organisations which are really responsible for the outbreak of war or for the maintenance of peace. Let us not say that this nation is warmongering and that another nation is not warmongering. All of us must assume responsibility. I do not believe that war is inevitable. I feel that man's commonsense will not permit war. But it shows how necessary it is that a Conference like this must see the signs that may emerge for possible conflict and try to avoid that conflict."

Highlights.

India's representatives participated prominently in all Committee discussions, particularly in matters which affected their own country, and the final shape of the conventions and resolutions bore the marked imprint of their efforts.

Among the highlights of the earlier proceedings was the acceptance of an Indian amendment to the United States resolution on Principles of Freedom of Information. Clauses of this Indian amendment were passed unanimously, the entire Eastern group voting side by side with Western countries for the first time. The Indian resolution stressed that all journalists are under an obligation to help maintain peace and security in the world and to promote respect for human rights without discrimination.

Pari passu, an Indian clause giving States the right to help their own national news enterprises until they are fully developed was inserted in the British draft Convention on Freedom of Information, despite vigorous opposition by the United Kingdom and United States Delegations. The Indian Delegation stressed the point that no discrimination was intended against foreign news agencies; India's only desire was to see that her own infant agencies had full scope to develop on the lines of big foreign agencies. An Indian proposal to prevent cartelisation in regard to information was also adopted.

The Government of India's viewpoint on subjects over a wide range was ably put across—these subjects included reciprocal arrangements for interchange of foreign correspondents; foreign exchange facilities, in particular, assistance by hard currency to soft currency countries; the equitable distribution of newsprint; the lowering of tariff barriers, with particular reference to the prices of radio sets and other equipment; the removal of anomalies in the law of libel; the improvement of the economic condition of journalists; and the undesirability of monopolistic control, public or private, of media of information.

A Great Triumph.

Sir Ramaswami Mudaliar again scored a great personal triumph during the last phases of the Conference. Against strong United States opposition in the final plenary session, he secured inclusion in the projected United Nations Covenant on Human Rights of a provision allowing Governments to prevent by law "the systematic diffusion of deliberately false or distorted reports which undermine friendly relations between peoples and States."

Replying to the chief American Delegate, Mr. William Benton, who alleged that the provision "turned over to Governments authority to sit in judgment on the correctness of news reports or decide what constituted friendly and unfriendly reports", Sir Ramaswami declared that it was far from the idea of the Government of India to use the provision in order to impose restrictions on the press. "The Indian proposal is inspired by a policy of good neighbourliness", he said. "There may be people and countries where, for a certain

time, in certain circumstances, it may be desirable to see that systematic and deliberate distortion of facts should be prevented."

Publicity.

The work of the Indian Delegation was widely publicised, and reports have been received that newspapers even in North America, apart from India and the United Kingdom, gave prominence to their activities. In the main, coverage was secured through the medium of agencies, principally Reuters and the United Press of America, although individual correspondents also mentioned these activities in their despatches.

Photographs of the Delegation were transmitted directly to various newspapers and magazines in India, and through the United Nations Organisation to other parts of the world.

Three of India's representatives—Sir Ramaswami Mudaliar, Mr. G. S. Bhalja, and Mr. S. A. Brelvi—made recorded impressions of the Conference for the United Nations Radio. Newsreel coverage was also provided through the United Nations Organisation.

Interim reports were submitted at regular intervals to the Ministry of Information and Broadcasting in New Delhi.

CHAPTER IV

CONCLUSION

At the last official meeting of the Indian Delegation on Thursday, 28nd April, Sir Ramaswami Mudaliar, in bidding good-bye to Delegates and Advisers, expressed his appreciation of the assistance and co-operation he had received. A resolution was then passed expressing the appreciation of the Delegation of the highly satisfactory work done by the staff—Miss E. H. Wildman and Miss E. M. Heighton (Secretaries), Mr. L. G. Rao (Cypher Clerk) and Mr. J. A. Kent (Messenger).

(Sgd.) P. L. BHANDARI,
Secretary-General,
Delegation of India.

INDIA HOUSE,
LONDON, W.C. 2,
24th *May* 1948.

ANNEX A

DRAFT CONVENTIONS

I. DRAFT CONVENTION ON THE GATHERING AND INTERNATIONAL TRANSMISSION OF NEWS.

THE CONTRACTING STATES,

DESIRING to implement the right of their peoples to be fully informed,

DESIRING to improve understanding between their peoples through the free flow of information and opinion,

HAVING RESOLVED to conclude a Convention for this purpose,

HAVE AGREED as follows:

Article 1

For the purposes of the present Convention, the following expressions are to be understood in the sense hereinafter defined.

A. Information Agency

A press, radio or film organisation, whether public or private, created or organised under the applicable laws and regulations within the territories of a Contracting State, regularly engaged in the collection and dissemination of news (including opinion) to the public, including press associations, news feature services, newspapers, periodicals, radio and television broadcasting organisations, and newsreel companies.

B. Foreign Correspondent

An individual employed by an information agency, or a national of a Contracting State, who in either case is regularly engaged in the collection and reporting of news (including opinion) to the general public, and who is the holder of a valid passport identifying him as a correspondent or of a similar document internationally accepted identifying him as such.

C. News Material

All news material, whether of information or opinion, and whether visual or auditory, for public dissemination.

Article 2

In order to encourage the freest possible movement of foreign correspondents in the performance of their functions, the Contracting States shall expedite, in a manner consistent with their respective laws and procedures, the administrative measures necessary for the entry, residence, movement and travel of foreign correspondents, together with their professional equipment, and shall impose no special, discriminatory or unusual restrictions on such ingress or egress, nor upon the transit through or residence in their territories of such correspondents.

Article 3

The Contracting States shall permit and encourage the widest possible access to news, official and nonofficial, for all foreign correspondents on the same basis as for national correspondents and shall not discriminate among foreign correspondents as regards such access.

Article 4

The Contracting States shall permit egress from their territory of all news material of foreign correspondents and foreign information agencies without censorship, editing or delay; provided that each of the Contracting States may make and enforce regulations relating directly to the maintenance of national military security. Such regulations must, however, be communicated to foreign correspondents and apply equally to all foreign correspondents and foreign information agencies.

If the requirements of national military security should compel a Contracting State, in peace-time, to establish censorship for a certain period of time, it shall:

(1) establish in advance such categories of news material for the use of an information agency in another country as are subject to previous inspection and publish the directives of the censor announcing forbidden matters;

(2) carry out censorship as far as possible in the presence of the foreign correspondent;

(3) where censorship in the presence of the person concerned is not possible:

(a) fix the time-limit allowed the censors for the return of the news material;

(b) require the return of news material submitted for censorship direct to the foreign correspondent or foreign information agency so that they may know at once what has been censored in their text and what use they may make of the censored information;

(c) base the charge on the number of words composing a telegram after censorship;

(d) return the total telegraph charges for telegrams submitted for censorship, the transmission of which has been delayed for more than six hours.

Article 5

The Contracting States, while recognising that foreign correspondents must conform to the laws in force in the countries in which they are operating, agree that foreign correspondents legally admitted into their territories shall not be expelled on account of any lawful exercise of their right to seek, receive or impart information or opinion.

Article 6

The Contracting States agree that foreign correspondents shall have access to all facilities generally and publicly used for the international transmission of news material and may transmit news material from one country to another on the same basis and at the same rates applicable to all other users of such facilities for similar purposes.

Article 7

Each of the Contracting States agrees to permit all news material of foreign correspondents and information agencies of the other Contracting States to enter its territory and reach information agencies operating therein on the same conditions as are accorded to any other foreign information agencies.

Article 8

Nothing herein contained shall be construed as depriving any Contracting State of its right to make and enforce regulations prohibiting obscene news material.

Article 9

The present Convention shall not apply to foreign correspondents who, while not otherwise admissible under Article 2 into the territory of a Contracting State, are nevertheless admitted conditionally in accordance with an agreement between that Contracting State and the United Nations or a Specialised Agency thereof, in order to cover its proceedings, or pursuant to a special arrangement made by the Contracting State in order to facilitate the entry of such correspondents.

Article 10

Nothing herein contained shall be interpreted as exempting foreign correspondents or foreign information agencies from public laws and regulations promulgated by any Contracting State for the protection of national security.

Article 11

The present Convention shall be ratified on behalf of the States signatory hereto in conformity with their respective constitutional procedures. The instruments of ratification shall be deposited with the Secretary-General of the United Nations, who shall notify all signatory and acceding States of each such deposit.

Article 12

The present Convention shall remain open for accession of all States which are not signatories. Instruments of accession shall be deposited with the Secretary-General of the United Nations, who shall notify all signatory and acceding States of each such deposit.

Article 13

The present Convention shall come into force as soon as two States have deposited their respective instruments of ratification or accession. The Convention thereafter shall come into force with respect to each other State on the date of the deposit of its instrument of ratification or accession.

Article 14

(a) A State party to the present Convention may at the same time of its accession thereto or at any time thereafter by notification addressed to the Secretary-General of the United Nations declare that the present Convention shall extend to any of the territories for the international relations of which it is responsible, and the Convention shall extend to the territories named in the notification as from the thirtieth day after the date of receipt by the Secretary-General of the United Nations of the notification.

The respective Contracting States undertake to seek immediately the consent of the Governments of such territories to the application of the present Convention to such territories, and to accede forthwith on behalf of and in respect of each such territory, if and when its consent has been obtained.

(b) A State which has made a declaration under paragraph (a) above extending the present Convention may with the consent of the Government concerned at any time thereafter by notification to the Secretary-General of the United Nations declare that the Convention shall cease to extend to any territory named in the notification, and the Convention shall then cease to extend to such territory six months after the date of receipt by the Secretary-General of the United Nations of the notification.

Article 15

The present Convention shall remain in force indefinitely, but may be denounced by any Contracting State by means of six months' notice in writing given to the Secretary-General of the United Nations, who shall transmit a copy of the notice to each of the other Contracting States. After the expiration of this period of six months, the Convention shall cease in its effect as regards the State which denounces it, but shall remain in force for the remaining Contracting States.

IN WITNESS WHEREOF, the Plenipotentiaries of the respective States, being duly authorised thereto, have signed the present Convention.

DONE at.....this.....day of.....1949 in the.....languages, each equally authentic, the original of which shall be deposited in the archives of the United Nations. The Secretary-General of the United Nations shall transmit certified copies thereof to all the signatory and acceding States.

II. DRAFT CONVENTION CONCERNING THE INSTITUTION OF AN INTERNATIONAL RIGHT OF CORRECTION.

THE GOVERNMENTS PARTIES to the present Convention,

CONSIDERING the danger to the maintenance of friendly relations between peoples and to the preservation of peace, presented by the publication of inaccurate reports;

CONSIDERING that at its Second Session, the General Assembly of the United Nations recommended the adoption of measures designed to promote friendly relations among nations and to combat the dissemination of false or distorted reports likely to injure the friendly relations between States;

CONSIDERING, however, that it does not at present appear possible or desirable to envisage the institution on the international level of a procedure for verifying the accuracy of a report such as might lead to the imposition of penalties for the publication of false or distorted reports;

CONSIDERING, moreover, that to prevent the publication of false or distorted news or to reduce its pernicious effects, it is above all necessary to sharpen the sense of responsibility of the various media of information and to promote the wide circulation of news;

That an effective means to this end is to give all those directly affected by a report which they consider false or distorted and which is spread by an organ of information the possibility of ensuring commensurate publicity for their corrections or replies; that the right of reply or correction had been embodied in the legislation of a large number of States and that its legitimacy is recognised in the Draft of Article 17 of the Covenant on Human Rights which the Sub-Commission on Freedom of Information and of the Press decided, at its Second Session, to recommend to the Commission on Human Rights; that failing the adoption, by all States, in their own legislation, of a like right available to foreign nationals under the same conditions as to their own nationals, it is particularly desirable to institute on the international level a right of correction, that it is necessary, however, in order to prevent any abuse, strictly to define the extent of the right of correction, and clearly to specify the conditions for its exercise;

HAVE ADOPTED the following Articles:

Article 1

In cases where a Contracting State alleges that news reports likely to injure its relations with other States transmitted from one country to another country by foreign correspondents or by news agencies and disseminated abroad, are false or distorted, it may submit its version of the facts (hereinafter called "communiqué") to the Contracting States within whose territories such reports have been published in one or more newspapers or periodicals or disseminated by radio. Such communiqué may be issued only with respect to news reports and must be without comment or expression of opinion. As far as possible the communiqué should not contain a larger number of words than the news report objected to and in no case more than double the number of words in the news report to be corrected. The communiqué must be accompanied by a verbatim text of the report as published or disseminated, and by evidence that the report objected to has been transmitted from one country to another by a foreign correspondent or by a news agency.

Article 2

1. Any Government of a Contracting State receiving such a communiqué shall, whatever be its opinion concerning the facts in question, make available to the news enterprises functioning in the territory where it exercises its authority the communiqué of the Government exercising the right of correction and, within five clear days from the date of receiving this communiqué, shall facilitate its dissemination through customary channels in accordance with its procedure for releasing news concerning international affairs.

2. In the event of the failure of any Contracting State to discharge its obligation under this article with respect to the communiqués of another Contracting State, the latter may discharge on the basis of reciprocity its obligation with respect to any communiqués thereafter submitted to it by the defaulting State.

Article 3

If any of the Contracting States to which this communiqué has been transmitted fails to fulfil, within the prescribed time-limit, the obligation laid down in the preceding article, the Government exercising the right of correction may submit the said communiqué to the Secretary-General of the United Nations who shall, within five clear days from the receipt thereof, give it appropriate publicity. This paragraph shall come into force as soon as the General Assembly of the United Nations has instructed its Secretary-General to perform this duty.

Article 4

Every Contracting State may, to the extent strictly limited by the exigencies of the situation, derogate from its obligations under the present Convention,

(a) as long as a state of war or public emergency prevails in its own territory,

(b) as long as such a state prevails in the territory of one or other Contracting States, but only with regard to those States.

Article 5

Any dispute between any two or more Contracting States concerning the interpretation or application of the present Convention which is not settled by negotiations shall be referred to the International Court of Justice for decision unless the Contracting States agree to another mode of settlement.

Article 6

The present Convention shall be open for accession to every State invited to the United Nations Conference on Freedom of Information held at Geneva in March and April, 1948, and to every other State which the General Assembly of the United Nations shall, by resolution, declare to be eligible.

Accession shall be effected by the deposit of an instrument of accession with the Secretary-General of the United Nations.

Article 7

When any two of the States mentioned in Article 6 have deposited their instruments of accession, the present Convention shall come into force between them on the thirtieth day after the date of the deposit of the second instrument of accession. It shall come into force for each State which accedes after that date on the thirtieth day after the deposit of its instrument of accession.

Article 8

Any Contracting State may denounce the present Convention by notification of denunciation to the Secretary-General of the United Nations. Denunciation shall take effect six months after the date of receipt by the Secretary-General of the United Nations of the notification of denunciation.

Article 9

1. A State party to the present Convention may at the same time of its accession thereto or at any time thereafter by notification addressed to the Secretary-General of the United Nations declare that the present Convention shall extend to any of the territories for the international relations of which it is responsible, and the Convention shall extend to the territories named in the notification as from the thirtieth day after the date of receipt by the Secretary-General of the United Nations of the notification. The respective Contracting States undertake to seek immediately the consent of the Governments of such territories to the application of the present Convention to such territories, and to accede forthwith on behalf of and in respect of each such territory, if and when its consent has been obtained.

2. A State which has made a declaration under paragraph 1 above extending the present Convention may with the consent of the Government concerned at any time thereafter by notification to the Secretary-General of the United Nations declare that the Convention shall cease to extend to any territory named in the notification, and the Convention shall then cease to extend to such territory six months after the date of receipt by the Secretary-General of the United Nations of the notification.

Article 10

The Secretary-General of the United Nations shall notify each of the States referred to in Article 6 of the date of the deposit of every instrument of accession and of the date on which this Convention comes into force and of any information received by him in accordance with the provisions of Article 5 and of every notification received by him in accordance with the provisions of Article 7 or 8.

III. DRAFT CONVENTION ON FREEDOM OF INFORMATION

The STATES PARTIES TO THIS CONVENTION,

CONSIDERING that the free interchange of information and opinions, both in the national and in the international sphere, is a fundamental human right and essential in the cause of peace and for the achievement of political, social and economic progress, and

DESIRING to co-operate fully with one another to promote the peace and welfare of mankind by this means,

HAVE ACCEPTED the following provisions:

Article 1

Subject to the provisions of Articles 2, 4, 5 and 6 of this Convention,

(a) each Contracting State shall secure to all its own nationals and to the nationals of every other Contracting State lawfully within its territory freedom to impart and receive information and opinions, orally, by written or printed matter, in the form of art, or by legally operated visual or auditory devices, without governmental interference;

(b) no Contracting State shall regulate or control the use or availability of any of the means of communication referred to in the preceding paragraph, in any manner discriminating against any of its own nationals or of the nationals of any other Contracting State on political or personal grounds or on the basis of race, sex, language or religion;

(c) each Contracting State shall secure to all its own nationals and to the nationals of every other Contracting State, freedom to transmit and listen to information and opinions within its territories and across its frontiers by any legally operated means without governmental interference;

(d) each Contracting State shall permit the nationals of other Contracting States as much freedom to seek information as it grants to its own nationals;

(e) the Contracting States shall encourage and facilitate the interchange between their territories of those of their nationals engaged in the gathering of information and opinions for dissemination to the public and shall deal expeditiously with applications by such persons to enter their territories.

Article 2

1. The freedoms referred to in paragraphs (a), (c) and (d) of Article 1 carry with them duties and responsibilities and may therefore be subject to necessary penalties, liabilities and restrictions clearly defined by law, but only with regard to:

(a) matters which must remain secret in the interest of national safety;

(b) expressions which incite persons to alter by violence the system of government or which promote disorder;

(c) expressions which incite persons to commit criminal acts;

(d) expressions which are obscene or which are dangerous for youth and expressed in publications intended for them;

(e) expressions which are injurious to the fair conduct of legal proceedings;

(f) expressions which infringe literary or artistic rights;

(g) expressions about other persons, natural or legal, which defame their reputations or are otherwise injurious to them without benefiting the public;

(h) legal obligations resulting from professional, contractual or other legal relationships including disclosure of information received in confidence in a professional or official capacity;

(i) the prevention of fraud;

(j) the systematic diffusion of deliberately false or distorted reports which undermine friendly relations between peoples or States.

2. A Contracting State may establish on reasonable terms a right of reply or a similar corrective remedy.

Article 3

Each Contracting State shall encourage the establishment functioning within its territory of more non-official organisations of persons employed in the dissemination of information

to the public, in order to promote the observance by such persons of high standards of professional conduct, and in particular:

(a) to report facts without prejudice and in their proper context and to make comments without malicious intent;

(b) to facilitate the solution of the economic, social and humanitarian problems of the world as a whole and the free interchange of information bearing on such problems;

(c) to help promote respect for human rights and fundamental freedoms without discrimination;

(d) to help maintain international peace and security;

(e) to counteract the persistent spreading of false or distorted reports which promote hatred or prejudice against States, persons or groups of different race, language, religion or philosophical conviction

Article 4

Nothing in the present Convention shall affect the right of any Contracting State to take measures which it deems necessary in order:

(a) to bring its balance of payments into equilibrium;

(b) to develop its national news enterprises until such time as such news enterprises are fully developed;

(c) to prevent agreements in restraint of the free flow of information or the cartelisation in regard to information:

provided that such measures may not be used as a means of preventing the entry of nationals of other Contracting States who are engaged in the gathering of information and opinions for dissemination to the public.

Article 5

Nothing in the present Convention shall prevent a Contracting State from reserving under its legislation to its own nationals the right to edit newspapers or news periodicals produced within its territory.

Article 6

Nothing in the present Convention shall limit the discretion of any Contracting State to refuse entry into its territory to any particular person, or to restrict the period of his residence thereon.

Article 7

As between the Contracting States which became parties to any general agreement on Human Rights sponsored by the United Nations and containing provisions relating to freedom of information, the present Convention shall be superseded by such agreement to the extent that the two instruments are inconsistent.

Article 8

In time of war or other public emergency a Contracting State may take measures derogating from its obligations under the present Convention to the extent strictly limited by the exigencies of the situation.

Any Contracting State availing itself of this right of derogation shall promptly inform the Secretary-General of the United Nations of the measures which it has thus adopted and of the reasons therefor. It shall also inform him as and when the measures cease to operate.

Article 9

Any dispute between any two or more Contracting States concerning the interpretation or application of the present Convention which is not settled by negotiations shall be referred to the International Court of Justice for decision unless the Contracting States agree to another mode of settlement.

Article 10

1. The present Convention shall be open for accession to every State invited to the United Nations Conference on Freedom of Information held at Geneva in March and April, 1948, and to every other State which the General Assembly of the United Nations shall, by resolution, declare to be eligible.

2. Accession shall be effected by the deposit of instrument of accession with the Secretary-General of the United Nations.

Article 11

When any two of the States mentioned in Article 10 have deposited their instruments of accession, the present Convention shall come into force between them on the thirtieth day after the date of the deposit of the second instrument of accession. It shall come into force for each State which accedes after that date on the thirtieth day after the deposit of its instrument of accession.

Article 12

Any Contracting State may denounce the present Convention by notification of denunciation to the Secretary-General of the United Nations. Denunciation shall take effect six months after the date of receipt by the Secretary-General of the United Nations of the notification of denunciation.

Article 13

(a) A State party to the present Convention may at the same time of its accession thereto or at any time thereafter by notification addressed to the Secretary-General of the United Nations declare that the present Convention shall extend to any of the territories for the international relations of which it is responsible, and the Convention shall extend to the territories named in the notification as from the thirtieth day after the date of receipt by the Secretary-General of the United Nations of the notification. The respective Contracting States undertake to seek immediately the consent of the Governments of such territories to the application of the present Convention to such territories, and to accede forthwith on behalf of and in respect of each such territory, if and when its consent has been obtained.

(b) A State which has made a declaration under paragraph (a) above extending the present Convention may with the consent of the Government concerned at any time thereafter by notification to the Secretary-General of the United Nations declare that the Convention shall cease to extend to any territory named in the notification, and the Convention shall then cease to extend to such territory six months after the date of receipt by the Secretary-General of the United Nations of the notification.

Article 14

The Secretary-General of the United Nations shall notify each of the States referred to in Article 10 of the date of the deposit of every instrument of accession and of the date on which this Convention comes into force and of any information received by him in accordance with the provisions of Article 11 and of every notification received by him in accordance with the provisions of Articles 12 or 13.

ANNEX B

Draft Declaration and Draft Covenant on Human Rights

THE UNITED NATIONS CONFERENCE ON FREEDOM OF INFORMATION,

HAVING CONSIDERED the resolution of the Economic and Social Council of 3 March 1946 referring to the Conference for its consideration and report, Articles 17 and 18 of the Draft Declaration on Human Rights and Article 17 of the Draft Covenant on Human Rights with the recommendations of the Sub-Commission on Freedom of Information and of the Press,

IS OF THE OPINION that:

I. Articles 17 and 18 of the Declaration may be embodied in one Article as follows:

Everyone shall have the right to freedom of thought and expression; this right shall include freedom to hold opinions without interference and to seek, receive and impart information and ideas by any means and regardless of frontiers.

II. Article 17 of the Draft Covenant on Human Rights may be as follows:

(1) Every person shall have the right to freedom of thought and the right to freedom of expression without interference by governmental action; these rights shall include freedom to hold opinions, to seek, receive and impart information and ideas, regardless of frontiers, either orally, by written or printed matter, in the form of art, or by legally operated visual or auditory devices.

(2) The right to freedom of expression carries with it duties and responsibilities and may, therefore, be subject to penalties, liabilities or restrictions clearly defined by law, but only with regard to:

(a) matters which must remain secret in the interests of national safety;

(b) expressions which incite persons to alter by violence the system of Government;

(c) expressions which directly incite persons to commit criminal acts;

(d) expressions which are obscene;

(e) expressions injurious to the fair conduct of legal expressions;

(f) infringements of literary or artistic rights;

(g) expressions about other persons natural or legal which defame their reputations or are otherwise injurious to them without benefiting the public;

(h) the systematic diffusion of deliberately false or distorted reports which undermine friendly relations between peoples and states;

A State may establish on reasonable terms a right of reply or a similar corrective remedy.

(3) Measures shall be taken to promote the freedom of information through the elimination of political, economic, technical and other obstacles which are likely to hinder the free flow of information.

(4) Nothing in this Article shall be deemed to affect the right of any State to control the entry of persons into its territory or the period of their residence therein.

III. THE CONFERENCE, having considered the above Articles of the Declaration and the Covenant, and the Second Report of the Sub-Commission,

IS OF THE OPINION that Article 17 of the Covenant is intended to apply to the freedom of expression of individuals as well as to the freedom of media of information and, *considering* there are particular provisions in many sources of law which restrict the freedom of expression and information other than those permitted by the Draft Article 17 suggested above,

RESOLVES, that the problem created by the omission of such provisions be called to the attention of the Commission on Human Rights.

ANNEX C
RESOLUTIONS
CHAPTER I
GENERAL PRINCIPLES

Resolution No. 1

WHEREAS

Freedom of Information is a fundamental right of the people, and is the touchstone of all the freedoms to which the United Nations is dedicated, without which world peace cannot well be preserved; and

Freedom of information carries the right to gather, transmit, and disseminate news anywhere and everywhere without fetters; and

Freedom of information depends for its validity upon the availability to the people of a diversity of sources of news and of opinion; and

Freedom of information further depends upon the willingness of the press and other agencies of information to employ the privileges derived from the people without abuse, and to accept and comply with the obligation to seek the facts without prejudice and to spread knowledge without malicious intent; and

Freedom of information further depends upon the effective enforcement of recognised responsibilities,

THE UNITED NATIONS CONFERENCE ON FREEDOM OF INFORMATION RESOLVES, THEREFORE,

1. That everyone shall have the right to freedom of thought and expression: this shall include freedom to hold opinions without interference; and to seek, receive and impart information and ideas by any means and regardless of frontiers;

2. That the right of news personnel to have the widest possible access to the sources of information, to travel unhampered in pursuit thereof, and to transmit copy without unreasonable or discriminatory limitations, should be guaranteed by action on the national and international plane.

3. That the exercise of these rights should be limited only by recognition of and respect for the rights of others, and the protection afforded by law to the freedom, welfare and security of all;

4. That in order to prevent abuses of freedom of information, governments in so far as they are able should support measures which will help to improve the quality of information and to make a diversity of news and opinion available to the people;

5. That it is the moral obligation of the press and other agencies of information to seek the truth and report the facts, thereby contributing to the solution of the world's problems through the free interchange of information bearing on them, promoting respect for human rights and fundamental freedoms without discrimination, fostering understanding and co-operation between peoples, and helping maintain international peace and security;

6. That this moral obligation, under the spur of public opinion, can be advanced through organisations and associations of journalists and through individual news personnel;

7. That encouragment should be given to the establishment and to the functioning within the territory of a State of one or more nonofficial organisations of persons employed in the collection and dissemination of information to the public, and that such organisation or organisations should encourage the fulfilment *inter alia* of the following obligations by all individuals or organisations engaged in the collection and dissemination of information;

(a) To report facts without prejudice and in their proper context and to make comments without malicious intent;

(b) To facilitate the solution of the economic, social and humanitarian problems of the world as a whole through the free interchange of information bearing on such problems;

(c) To help promote freedom for human rights and fundamental freedoms without discrimination;

(d) To help maintain international peace and security;

(e) To counteract the spreading of intentionally false or distorted reports which promote hatred or prejudice against States, persons or groups of different race, language, religion or philosophical conviction;

8. That observance of the obligations of the press and other agencies of information, except those of a recognised legal nature, can also be effectively advanced by the people served by these instrumntalities, provided that news and opinion reach them through a diversity of sources and that the people have adequate means of obtaining and promoting a better performance from the press and other agencies of information.

Resolution No. 2

WHEREAS the peoples of the world have embodied in the United Nations their determination to protect mankind from the scourge of war and to prevent the recurrence of aggression from Nazi, Fascist, or any other source;

WHEREAS the attainment of a just and lasting peace depends in great degree upon the free flow of true and honest information to all peoples and upon the spirit of responsibility with which all personnel of the press and other agencies of information seek the truth and report the facts;

AND WHEREAS, by inaccurate reports, by defective or distorted presentation and deliberate or malicious misinterpretation of facts in various parts of the world, peoples have been misled and their mutual understanding has been seriously endangered;

THE UNITED NATIONS CONFERENCE ON FREEDOM OF INFORMATION

ENDORSES the resolutions of the second General Assembly on propaganda which is either designed or likely to provoke or encourage any threat to the peace, breach of the peace, or act of aggression, and on the spreading of false and distorted reports;

DECLARES that all such propaganda and such reports:

(a) are contrary to the purposes of the United Nations as defined in the Charter;

(b) constitute a problem of the first importance calling for urgent corrective action on the national and international planes;

CONDEMNS solemnly all propaganda either designed or likely to provoke or encourage any threat to the peace, breach of the peace, or act of aggression, and all distortion and falsification of news through whatever channels, private or governmental, since such activities can only promote misunderstanding and mistrust between the peoples of the world and thereby endanger the lasting peace which the United Nations is considered to maintain;

APPEALS vigorously to the personnel of the press and other agencies of information of all the countries of the world, and to those responsible for their activities, to serve the aims of friendship, understanding and peace by accomplishing their task in a spirit of accuracy, fairness and responsibility;

EXPRESSES its profound conviction that only organs of information in all countries of the world that are free to seek and to disseminate the truth, and thus to carry out their responsibility to the people, can greatly contribute to the counteracting of Nazi, Fascist, or any other propaganda of aggression or of racial, national and religious discrimination and to the prevention of recurrence of Nazi, Fascist, or any other aggression;

AND THEREFORE RECOMMENDS that all countries take within their respective territories the measures which they consider necessary to give effect to this Resolution.

Resolution No. 3

WHEREAS the first Committee of the United Nations Conference on Freedom of Information on 9 April 1948 unanimously adopted a Resolution declaring that all propaganda designed or likely to provoke or encourage any threat to the peace, breach of the peace, or act of aggression, and also the spreading of false and distorted reports likely to injure friendly relations between States, constitute a problem of the first importance calling for urgent corrective action in the national and inter national planes, and

WHEREAS in the said Resolution tho first Committee expressed its profound conviction that only organs of information in all countries of the world which are free to seek and to disseminate the truth, and this to carry out their responsibility to the people, can greatly contribute to the counteracting of Nazi, Fascist or any other propaganda of aggression or of racial, national and religious discrimination and to the prevention of recurrence of Nazi, Fascist, or any other aggression. and

WHEREAS, the said Resolution having been adopted by this Conference, it is desirable that all appropriate steps should be taken to implement this Resolution,

THE UNITED NATIONS CONFERENCE ON FREEDOM OF INFORMATION

TRANSMITS the said Resolution to the Economic and Social Council, and

RECOMMENDS that all countries should promptly inform the Secretary-General of the United Nations of any measures taken by them to give effect to the Resolution;

RECOMMENDS that appropriate national bodies should supplement the work of information agencies and associations of journalists and of others engaged in the collection, publication and dissemination of news, in ensuring the impartial presentation of news and opinion;

RECOMMENDS that the United Nations should give consideration to means by which they may be able to assist in implementing the Resolution; and further

RECOMMENDS that the Sub-Commission on Freedom of Information and of the Press in carrying out the functions which may be assigned to it in accordance with the recommendations of the Conference should consider appropriate means by which measures taken to give effect to the Resolution may be co-ordinated.

Resolution No. 4

CONSIDERING that there are in some countries media of information which disseminate racial and national hatred,

THE UNITED NATIONS CONFERENCE ON FREEDOM OF INFORMATION

RECOMMENDS that the governments of such countries should :

(a) Encourage the widest possible dissemination of free information through a diversity of sources as the best safeguard against the creation of racial and national hatred and prejudice;

(b) Encourage, in consultation with organisations of journalists, suitable and effective non-legislative measures against the dissemination of such hatred and prejudice; and

(c) Take, within their constitutional limits, appropriate measures to encourage the dissemination of information promoting friendly relations between races and nations based upon the purposes and principles of the United Nations Charter.

CHAPTER II

MEASURES TO FACILITATE THE GATHERING AND INTERNATIONAL TRANSMISSION OF INFORMATION

Resolution No. 5

THE UNITED NATIONS CONFERENCE ON FREEDOM OF INFORMATION RESOLVES THAT :

1. Governments should encourage the freest movement of foreign correspondents in the performance of their functions; and that

2. Governments should expedite in a manner consistent with their respective laws and procedures the administrative measures necessary for the entry, residence, movement and travel of foreign correspondents, together with their professional equipment, and should impose no special, discriminatory or unusual restrictions on such ingress or egress, or upon the transit through or residence in their territories of such correspondents.

Resolution No. 6

CONSIDERING that a clear definition of which news personnel are to be regarded as professional foreign correspondents of newspapers, news agencies, periodicals, broadcasting enterprises and newsreel enterprises has not been established; and

CONSIDERING that the various recommendations adopted by this Conference are of particular importance in securing free and unhampered working conditions for foreign correspondents; and

CONSIDERING that the establishment of adequate means of identifying the professional foreign correspondents will facilitate for governments the realisation of their commitments for furthering the free flow of information;

THE UNITED NATIONS CONFERENCE ON FREEDOM OF INFORMATION

RECOMMENDS to the Economic and Social Council that the Sub-Commission on Freedom of Information and of the Press be requested to:

(1) Study the possibility of obtaining a clear and practically applicable definition of such news personnel as are to be given the status of professional foreign correspondents;

(2) Consider whether measures should be taken with a view to providing foreign correspondents with appropriate documents of identification as to their professional capacity;

(3) Consider additional administrative and technical facilities might be granted to foreign correspondents holding such documents of identification;

(4) Conduct this work in close collaboration with international and national professional organisations of the press, radio, and newsreel, especially by drawing upon the experience of news personnel actively engaged in the gathering and transmission of news; and

(5) Consider whether the task of handling any practical measures to be taken could be entirely or partially entrusted to a permanent organisation collaborating with professional bodies of the press, radio and newsreel, or to such professional bodies.

Resolution No. 7

THE UNITED NATIONS CONFERENCE ON FREEDOM OF INFORMATION

WHILE RECOGNISING that all foreign news personnel must conform to the laws in force in the countries in which they are operating,

DECLARES that no such person legally admitted to a foreign territory should be expelled on account of any lawful exercise by him of his right to seek, receive and impart information or opinion.

Resolution No. 8

THE UNITED NATIONS CONFERENCE ON FREEDOM OF INFORMATION RESOLVES

That Governments should permit and encourage the widest possible access to news, official and non-official, for all foreign correspondents on the same basis as for national correspondents;

AND FURTHER RESOLVES

That Governments should make no discrimination between foreign correspondents as regards access to news provided for in the above paragraph.

Resolution No. 9

CONSIDERING that the United Nations, in accordance with the aim and purposes of its Charter, should be prepared to grant all the necessary facilities for enabling media of information to function with full freedom and responsibility in following the course of its work and that of Conferences called by it and its specialised agencies,

THE UNITED NATIONS CONFERENCE ON FREEDOM OF INFORMATION

RECOMMENDS that the United Nations General Assembly adopt a resolution urging that accredited news personnel of all countries should have free access—

(a) to countries where meetings of the United Nations or its specialised agencies or any Conferences convened by them take place, in accordance with the terms and conditions of agreements made by the United Nations or its specialised agencies with the governments of such countries; and

(b) to all sources of information connected with such meetings except in cases where, in accordance with the Rules of Procedure, meetings are held in private.

Resolution No. 10

CONSIDERING that one of the purposes and principles of the United Nations as enunciated in the United Nations Charter is the encouragement of respect for human rights and for fundamental freedoms for all without distinction as to race;

BELIEVING that any racial discrimination is incompatible with freedom of information and that the latter can be facilitated by the unconditional application of the principle of racial equality; and

CONSIDERING that it is imperative that access to all sources of information and to public utilities should be available to foreign correspondents, within the framework of existing laws and regulations without distinction as to race;

THE UNITED NATIONS CONFERENCE ON FREEDOM OF INFORMATION

DECLARES that in order to ensure the application of this principle, it is essential that governments and public utilities should not deny to foreign correspondents on racial grounds :

(a) access to any sources of information within the framework of existing laws and regulations;

(b) access to press conferences, legislative bodies, public meetings and demonstrations, theatres, concerts, exhibitions, public lectures, and educational institutions, etc;

(c) access to communication facilities;

(d) access to means of transport; and

(e) access to facilities relative to accommodation and supplies.

Resolution No. 11

THE UNITED NATIONS CONFERENCE ON FREEDOM OF INFORMATION

INVITES Governments to conclude bilateral or multi-lateral agreements with a view to eliminating unreasonable or discriminatory taxes affecting the operations of foreign information agencies and news personnel, being guided, in particular, by the results of the work of the Fiscal Commission of the Economic and Social Council concerning double taxation.

Resolution No. 12

THE UNITED NATIONS CONFERENCE ON FREEDOM OF INFORMATION

RESOLVES

That governments should permit egress from their territory of all news material of foreign correspondents and foreign information agencies, whether of information or opinion, and whether visual or auditory, without censorship, editing or delay; provided that governments may make and enforce regulations relating directly to the maintenance of national military security; and

That such regulations should, however, be communicated to foreign correspondents and should apply equally to all foreign correspondents and foreign information agencies,

FURTHER RESOLVES

That if the requirements of national military security should compel governments, in peace-time, to establish censorship for a certain period of time, they should :

(1) establish in advance such categories of information or photographs for the use of a newspaper, news agency, broadcasting station or newsreel enterprise in another country, as are subject to previous inspection and publish the directives of the censor announcing for bidden matters;

(2) carry out censorship as far as possible in the presence of the journalists; and

(3) where censorship in the presence of the person concerned has not been possible

(a) fix the time-limit allowed the censors for the return of the copy or photograph;

(b) require the return of copy submitted for censorship direct to the reporters of news agencies so that journalists may know at once what has been censored in their text and what use they may make of the censored information;

(c) base the charge on the number of words composing a telegram after censorship; and

(d) return the total telegraph charges for telegrams submitted for censorship, the transmission of which has been delayed more than six hours.

Resolution No. 13

STRONGLY CONVINCED that Freedom of Information should be assured to everyone,

HOLDING that any form of censorship constitutes a curtailment of this freedom,

CONSIDERING that censorship deprives the information which it passes of its credibility and often gives information from unspecified sources an unwarranted value;

THE UNITED NATIONS CONFERENCE ON FREEDOM OF INFORMATION

SOLEMNLY CONDEMNS the use in peace-time of censorship which restricts or controls freedom of information, and

INVITES governments to take the necessary steps to promote its progressive abolition;

AND CONSIDERS THAT

NOTHING in this resolution shall, however, prevent governments from maintaining regulation of newsreels provided their release may only be prohibited on grounds of public morality.

Resolution No. 14

THE UNITED NATIONS CONFERENCE ON FREEDOM OF INFORMATION

RECOMMENDS to the Economic and Social Council for suggestion to the INTERNATIONAL TELECOMMUNICATIONS UNION that where teleprinter lines have been installed on long-term lease between two or more news agencies, not only may the agencies bound by contract exchange news over those lines, but correspondents of the affiliated agencies may also use them without extra charge for transmitting news to the agencies for which they work.

Resolution No. 15

THE UNITED NATIONS CONFERENCE ON FREEDOM OF INFORMATION

RESOLVES that foreign correspondents should have access to all facilities generally and publicly used for the international transmission of news material and should be enabled to transmit news material from one country to another on the same basis and at the same rates applicable to all other users of such facilities for similar purposes.

Resolution No. 16

BELIEVING that the widest possible publication, circulation, movement and interchange of news, newspapers, news periodicals, newsreels and other media of a distinct news character are a necessary part of freedom of information, and

RECOGNISING that governments should, to the extent of their abilities and within the limits of their currency positions, facilitate the securing of raw materials and equipment needed for the development of their domestic information agencies and organisations,

THE UNITED NATIONS CONFERENCE ON FREEDOM OF INFORMATION

RECOMMENDS that, as hard currencies and foreign exchange become increasingly available and more free, governments should encourage and, as far as practicable, facilitate the necessary action which will ease quantitative, exchange and tariff restrictions on the importation of news, news publications and productions, and raw materials and equipment therefor, and

FURTHER RECOMMENDS that the governments of countries which possess hard currencies encourage by appropriate steps the above-mentioned action.

Resolution No. 17

CONSIDERING that it is advisable to adopt measures relating to the free reception and exhibition of newsreels,

THE UNITED NATIONS CONFERENCE ON FREEDOM OF INFORMATION

RECOMMENDS that all States should take steps to foster the interchange of newsreels in proportion to each nation's productive capacity, and should at the same time study the disparities in the development of the production enterprises in the different countries and deal with the problem of the development of national enterprises by means of provisional measures; and

FURTHER RECOMMENDS that monopolistic practices, in all their forms, open or concealed, in relation to the showing of such films, be eliminated, in order to avoid any kind of restriction, exclusion or privilege.

Resolution No. 18

THE UNITED NATIONS CONFERENCE ON FREEDOM OF INFORMATION

CONSIDERS that governments should permit all news material of foreign correspondents and foreign information agencies to enter their territories and reach information agencies operating therein on the same conditions as are accorded to any other foreign information agencies.

Resolution No. 19

WITH A VIEW to encourage wider and freer flow of information through the development of national news agencies in countries where such agencies are under-developed,

THE UNITED NATIONS CONFERENCE ON FREEDOM OF INFORMATION

RECOMMENDS that any foreign news agency operating within the territory of a country where national news agencies are under-developed, while it should enjoy full freedom as regards the international transmission of news, should refrain from releasing, at the locality of its operation, news concerning the country's domestic affairs, and further refrain from transmitting such news to any other locality in that country for publication, except by mutual arrangement with the national news agencies or with local newspapers.

Resolution No. 20

THE UNITED NATIONS CONFERENCE ON FREEDOM OF INFORMATION

WHILE AFFIRMING its conviction

THAT effective news agencies are a natural outgrowth of the vigour and co-operation of the organs of publication which they serve, and

THAT the dependence of news agencies on those organs themselves is an important factor in ensuring the objectivity of the information which they supply,

IS HOWEVER of opinion that in countries where national news agencies are not sufficiently developed provisional measures may appropriately be taken by governments to encourage their development as independent news agencies, and is further of opinion that at no time should the development of foreign news agencies by unfair or abnormal means be allowed to prejudice the normal development of national agencies.

Resolution No. 21

CONSIDERING that the increase in the amount of information should apply without exception and in equal measure to all countries with a view to obtaining an ever-wider and more accurate knowledge of their problems, achievements and contributions to international co-operation and world peace; and

CONSIDERING that this aim has not been fully realised in the case of all nations, about some of which information is scanty and in many cases distorted or biased, and that as a result there is too often ignorance as to the true character of their civilisation and their importance in material progress, intellectual achievements and contribution to social justice, the defence of freedom and world harmony;

THE UNITED NATIONS CONFERENCE ON FREEDOM OF INFORMATION

RECOMMENDS that press enterprises and agencies for the publication and dissemination of news be encouraged to establish an efficient information service dealing with all countries, and especially with their achievements and concern for human progress, for their own political, economic and social independence and for the closest friendship and harmony among peoples; and

FURTHER RECOMMENDS that stress be laid on the desirability of all governments making permanently available to such enterprises and agencies all information material likely to contribute to the above aim and to the elucidation or rectification of news and comments which tend to hamper or prevent its realisation.

Resolution No. 22

THE UNITED NATIONS CONFERENCE ON FREEDOM OF INFORMATION

CONSIDERING the desirability for the full realisation of freedom of information in all countries,

RESOLVES that all countries should co-operate in the procurement and advancement of the facilities for the transmission and dissemination of information.

Resolution No. 23

THE UNITED NATIONS CONFERENCE ON FREEDOM OF INFORMATION

TAKES NOTE of the Secretariat Document on International Communications and the Freedom of Information (E/CONF. 6/29), and

RECOMMENDS that, in view of the highly technical nature of the matter, the Economic and Social Council refer it to the International Telecommunications Union for its consideration.

Resolution No. 24

THE UNITED NATIONS CONFERENCE ON FREEDOM OF INFORMATION

HAVING GIVEN CONSIDERATION to the problems involved in the establishment of governmental and semi-governmental information services in order to make information available in countries other than their own,

REQUESTS the Economic and Social Council to refer consideration of this matter to the Sub-Commission on Freedom of Information and of the Press, and to draw its attention to the views expressed at this Conference and to the proposal of the United Kingdom delegation on the subject.

CHAPTER III

Measures Concerning the Free Publication and Reception of Information

Resolution No. 25

CONSIDERING that governments should put no obstacles in the way of persons and groups wishing to express themselves through the means of mass communication,

THE UNITED NATIONS CONFERENCE ON FREEDOM OF INFORMATION

RECOMMENDS that all governments should, to the extent that they make available materials and facilities for the mass media, undertake not to discriminate on political or personal grounds or on the basis of race, nationality, sex, language or religion, or against minorities.

Resolution No. 26

THE UNITED NATIONS CONFERENCE ON FREEDOM OF INFORMATION

CONSIDERING that, in view of the diversity of the laws of libel in force in different countries, and the diversity of legal systems and conditions with reference to which laws are made, this Conference is not in a position to make a close study of such laws for the purpose of recommending specific improvements; and RECOGNISING that all branches of law must be kept in accord with public opinion and that this is especially true of the laws relating to the liberty of discussion,

RECOMMENDS that States should from time to time review their laws of libel, taking into consideration the general conclusions of this Conference, in order to remove anomalies, and to secure to all persons the maximum freedom of expression compatible with the maintenance of order and with due regard to the rights of others; and

CONSIDERING it necessary to determine the fundamental principles in this matter which may serve as a uniform basis for the laws of the various countries,

FURTHER RECOMMENDS:

(1) that the Economic and Social Council invite a Committee of Jurists or an international organisation (such as the International Association of Criminal Law) to:

(a) study the laws of libel of the various countries in order to note their defects and anomalies; and

(b) formulate a body of fundamental rules and principles regarding libel, taking into account the role played by the press in a democratic State; and

(2) that the Economic and Social Council draw the attention of the various Governments to this body of rules with a view to their being taken into consideration in the formulation of national laws of libel.

Resolution No. 27

THE UNITED NATIONS CONFERENCE ON FREEDOM OF INFORMATION

RECOGNISING that there is a diversity in different countries in the ownership and control of media of information and that freedom can flourish under widely different systems;

RECOMMENDS that governments should undertake to put no obstacles in the way of persons or groups wishing to express themselves through the means of mass communication, and should ensure in so far as they are able that persons do not suffer discrimination in the use of the media on political or personal grounds or on the basis of race, sex, language or religion, and

FURTHER RECOMMENDS the investigation by each country in its own way of public and private monopoly, in ownership and control of the media of information, where such monopoly exists.

Resolution No. 28

THE UNITED NATIONS CONFERENCE ON FREEDOM OF INFORMATION

CONSIDERING that the free interchange of information and opinions promotes the welfare of all nations and is indispensable to the peace of the world,

RECOMMENDS that governments should grant the right to all nationals of their States to possess and operate radio receiving sets covering all the bands used for domestic and international broadcasts, free from intimidation or pressure and subject only to the accepted rules governing licensing and copyright.

Resolution No. 29

THE UNITED NATIONS CONFERENCE ON FREEDOM OF INFORMATION IS OF THE OPINION:

1. THAT the tax on the sale of receiving sets, valves and spare parts should be reduced to the maximum extent;

2. THAT the possession of receiving sets is necessary to assure a really free flow of information and is in no way a luxury;

3. THAT the annual, or monthly, charge payable by the possessors of such sets should be allocated exclusively to meet the operating costs of national radio organisations; and

4. THAT receiving sets installed in the schools of all countries should be exempt from all taxes and charges.

Resolution No. 30

CONSIDERING that in many countries the price of radio receiving sets is unduly high; and

CONSIDERING that one of the aims of the Conference is to recommend means to increase the amount of domestic and international information available to all peoples;

THE UNITED NATIONS CONFERENCE ON FREEDOM OF INFORMATION

RECOMMENDS to the Economic and Social Council that a study be made of all appropriate measures so that the general public can obtain radio receiving sets at low prices.

Resolution No. 31

WHEREAS one of the means of expanding interchange of information is by the reception of press transmissions by radio addressed to multiple destinations, and

WHEREAS thirtyseven nations now permit private reception of multipleaddress newscasts;

THE UNITED NATIONS CONFERENCE ON FREEDOM OF INFORMATION

TAKES NOTE of the practice of private reception of multipleaddress newscasts; and

SUGGESTS to the Economic and Social Council that the problem be referred for further study to the International Telecommunications Union or any other competent body.

Resolution No. 32

THE UNITED NATIONS CONFERENCE ON FREEDOM OF INFORMATION

HAVING CONSIDERED the investigations of UNESCO into the technical needs of war-devastated countries,

1. EXPRESSES the hope that UNESCO will proceed with the utmost speed to carry out the programmes it has prepared in this connection;

2. NOTES with satisfaction that UNESCO is taking expeditious steps for ascertaining the requirements of other countries, whose detailed wants have not been investigated so far but which are handicapped, on account of material inadequacies, in making satisfactory arrangements for the provision of domestic and international information;

3. RECOMMENDS that the Economic and Social Council instruct its regional economic commissions and request the competent specialised agencies to assist UNESCO in its task of reducing the inequalities in information facilities caused by the devastations due to war, or other handicaps; and

4. FURTHER RECOMMENDS that very early arrangements may be made by UNESCO, with the help of other specialised agencies concerned in the matter, for dealing with the requirements of these countries.

Resolution No. 33

TAKING COGNISANCE of the conclusions concerning newsprint reached by UNESCO as the outcome of its enquiry carried out in 1947 in twelve war-devastated countries of Europe and the Far East, and of the decision of UNESCO to continue its enquiry in 1948 in other parts of the world,

THE UNITED NATIONS CONFERENCE ON FREEDOM OF INFORMATION

DRAWS the attention of the Economic and Social Council to the harm and dangers which inadequate production of newsprint, and unequal distribution thereof, have on the exercise of freedom of information;

RECOMMENDS that the Economic and Social Council consider as soon as possible, in the light of the enquiries carried out by the Council and by UNESCO, practical measures to remedy the situation; and

RECOMMENDS that governments give their support to the UNESCO plan for aid to war-devastated countries; and

INVITES UNESCO to extend such aid to other countries suffering from an acute shortage of newsprint.

Resolution No. 34

THE UNITED NATIONS CONFERENCE ON FREEDOM OF INFORMATION

TAKING NOTE of the proposal submitted directly by UNESCO to establish under the auspices of that agency an International Institute of Press and Information, and

CONSIDERING that such an Institute could be conducive to the improvement of the quality of information,

REQUESTS the Economic and Social Council to invite governments and professional organizations, national and international, to examine together the possibility of implementing this proposal and, if it is found practicable, to co-operate in carrying it out.

Resolution No. 35

THE UNITED NATIONS CONFERENCE ON FREEDOM OF INFORMATION

DESIRING to improve the quality of information,

RECOMMENDS

(1) THAT the curricula of schools of journalism, governmental and private, include

(a) intensive study of the history and culture of other peoples as a background for correct interpretation of international news and events;

(b) inculcation in future journalists of a keen sense of the moral and social responsibility of their profession, stressing the undesirability of commercialism, sensationalism and racial and religious intolerance; and

(c) training in the habit of objectivity, accuracy and comprehensiveness in reporting and writing;

(2) THAT journalistic organizations exchange views concerning the desirable qualifications, technical requirements, and the working conditions of foreign correspondents;

(3) THAT systems of awards be established for news personnel for conspicuous service in upholding high journalistic ideals and for excellence in writing, especially in the field of international news and its interpretation, and in promoting the ideals of the United Nations, hereby strengthening friendship between peoples.

Resolution No. 36

CONSIDERING that the task of drafting and enforcing an international code of honour for journalists and other information personnel requires as a principal condition the discussion in advance by the professional organizations active in this field; and

CONSIDERING also that any such code of honour should be sufficiently wide to include all media of information and to cover the activities of all information enterprises, including the activities of journalists, editors, managers, directors and publishers of such enterprises,

THE UNITED NATIONS CONFERENCE ON FREEDOM OF INFORMATION

RECOMMENDS:

1. THAT the question of drafting an international code of honour and of the possibility of establishing an international court of honour be referred to the Sub Commission on Freedom of Information and of the Press:

2 THAT the Sub Commission should also examine in this connection the Draft Convention concerning an International Court of Honour proposed by the Delegations of Columbia and Peru, which the Conference has taken note of without pronouncing an opinion on its substance, and any other Draft Conventions on the subject referred to in paragraph 1 which may be proposed:

3. THAT national and international professional organisations be invited to contribute such material as they may consider to be of value to the Sub.Commission in its deliberations; and

4. THAT the Sub.Commission be requested to present the results of its investigations to the Economic and Social Council for consideration by any international conference of journalists, editors, managers, directors and publishers which may be convened by the United Nations to consider these specific matters.

Resolution No. 37

THE UNITED NATIONS CONFERENCE ON FREEDOM OF INFORMATION

CONSIDERING the desirability of encouraging the adoption of measures guaranteeing the independence of news personnel and consequently the freedom of information; and

CONSIDERING that to attain this and all those who derive their main livelihood from the practice of the profession should be assured freedom from want in their old age, or in the case of disability, sickness or unemployment, or for their families in the event of death,

RECOMMENDS:

THAT the Economic and Social Council invite governments to include in their legislation a system of social security guaranteeing apart from the rights conferred on news personnel by their contracts of employment,

(a) payment (pension or lump sum) during their old age and in the event of disability;

(b) compensation for a certain period in the event of unemployment or sickness including an adequate notice of discharge; and

(c) payment (pension or lump sum) to the widow and dependent children; and

FURTHER RECOMMENDS that social benefits be financed by contributions made on the one hand by employers and on the other by news personnel themselves, and possibly, by contributions from the State.

Resolution No. 38

CONSIDERING:

THAT the problem of freedom of information, in relation to the reception and transmission of true and objective news, is intimately bound up with the economic conditions under which professional news personnel work,

THE UNITED NATIONS CONFERENCE ON FREEDOM OF INFORMATION

RECOMMENDS that in all States Members of the United Nations and Non-Member States the advisability be considered of ensuring, by free negotiation between employers and employees, or, where necessary, by law, the protection of news personnel whose main source of livelihood is the gathering or dissemination of news or opinion, whether they work for daily newspapers, news periodicals, news agencies, or news departments of broadcasting or motion picture organisations; and

FURTHER RECOMMENDS that such provisions should cover the following points without exclusion of other benefits:

1. The initial emoluments of the professional journalist;
2. Automatic system of increase in salaries for seniority, taking into account previous experience;
3. Stability of employment and compensation in case of wrongful dismissal;
4. Superannuation and retirement;
5. Payment of salaries during vacations;
6. System of compensation for accidents at work and occupational diseases; and
7. Settlement of professional disputes.

CHAPTER IV

CONTINUING MACHINERY TO PROMOTE THE FREE FLOW OF INFORMATION

Resolution No. 35

CONSIDERING:

THAT the work of the various Committees has shown the need to set up continuing international machinery to carry on the work undertaken by the Conference on Freedom of Information and, in particular, to study the problems involved in the application of the resolutions adopted by this Conference and the implementation of the draft conventions recommended by it,

CONSIDERING:

THAT it is expedient, in order to avoid the multiplication of specialised agencies, to entrust this task to the Sub-Commission on Freedom of Information and of the Press,

THE UNITED NATIONS CONFERENCE ON FREEDOM OF INFORMATION

RESOLVES:

1. That the Economic and Social Council be requested to continue the Sub-Commission on Freedom of Information and of the Press for a period of three years;

2. That the Sub-Commission's terms of reference include the consideration of issues and problems involved in the dissemination of information by newspapers and news periodicals, radio broadcasts and newsreels;

3. That, to carry out these terms of reference, the Sub-Commission may:

(a) Study and report to the Economic and Social Council on:

(1) Political, economic and other barriers to the free flow of information;

(2) The extent to which freedom of information is accorded to the various peoples of the world;

(3) The adequacy of the news available to them;

(4) The development of high standards of professional conduct;

(5) The persistent dissemination of information which is false, distorted or otherwise injurious to the principles of the Charter of the United Nations;

(6) The operation of any inter-governmental agreements in the field of freedom of information;

(b) Receive for its own information communications from any legally constituted national or international press, information, broadcasting or newsreel enterprise or association relating to the items enumerated in paragraph 3(a) above with a view to assisting it in the formulation of general principles and proposals in the field of freedom of information;

(c) Discharge with the approval of the General Assembly and the Economic and Social Council such other functions as may be entrusted to it by intergovernmental agreements on information; and

(d) Initiate studies and make recommendations to the Economic and Social Council concerning:

(1) The promotion of a wider degree of freedom of information and the reduction or elimination of obstacles thereto;

(2) The promotion of the dissemination of true information to counteract Nazi, Fascist or any other propaganda of aggression or of racial, national and religious discrimination;

(3) The conclusion or improvement of inter-governmental agreements in the field of freedom of information; and

(4) Measures to facilitate the work of foreign news personnel.

4. That the General Assembly be requested to make adequate funds available for the work of the Sub-Commission and in particular, funds for providing the Sub-Commission with the full-time expert staff, within the Secretariat of the United Nations, necessary for the discharge of its important functions.

Thursday
2nd September, 1948

THE CONSTITUENT ASSEMBLY OF INDIA (LEGISLATIVE) DEBATES

(PART II—PROCEEDINGS OTHER THAN QUESTIONS AND ANSWERS)

Official Repotr

Volume VII, 1948

(1st September to 7th September, 1948)

THIRD SESSION

OF THE

CONSTITUENT ASSEMBLY OF INDIA (LEGISLATIVE)

1948

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CONSTITUENT ASSEMBLY OF INDIA (LEGISATIVE) DEBATE

PART II—PROCEEDINGS OTHER THAN QUESTIONS AND ANSWERS)

Thursday, 2nd September, 1948

The Assembly met in the Assembly Chamber of the Council House at a Quarter to Eleven of the Clock, Mr. Speaker (The Honourable Mr. G. V. Mavalankar) in the Chair.

QUESTIONS AND ANSWERS

(*See* Part I)

11-45 A.M.

STATEMENT OF BUSINESS

The Honourable Pandit Jawaharlal Nehru (Prime Minister and Leader of the House): May I, Sir, draw the attention of the House to the state of business? This House would normally adjourn the day after tomorrow; but there is plenty of important work to be done. It is quite possible that we may not be able to finish that important work in the time available unless we make some special provision. We would like to get through some legislation. Tomorrow, I understand, is going to be devoted to discussion of non-official resolutions. Therefore we really have only today and the day after tomorrow unless this House wishes to extend the date of the session by a few days. I would suggest for your consideration that instead of extending the period of the session we might extend the daily sitting hours for the next two or three days. Probably that would better meet the convenience of members who may have made arrangements to leave the city. Therefore my suggestion is, subject to your approval, that the House should meet for two extra hours in the evening or afternoon; that is to say, the House may rise at 5 o'clock as usual but meet again at 5-30 and sit till 7-30 P.M. these extra hours being devoted to official business.

Pandit Hirday Nath Kunzru (U.P.: General): With reference to what has been just said I may suggest that any arrangements that might be made for the convenient dispatch of official business should be of such a character as to enable honourable members to have sufficient time to study the business that will come up before the House. That more time will be needed is undoubted. The only question is whether the session should be extended by a day or two or whether the sittings should be late. The Prime Minister has suggested that the sittings should be lengthened. I venture to think that if that suggestion were followed it would leave us very little time to study the business that we will be called upon to consider. I am sure honourable members themselves are desirous of looking into all matters carefully before they discuss them in this House. I hope, therefore, that they will bear the inconvenience of sitting here for a day or two more rather than agree to an extension of the sittings of the House, which will make it virtually impossible for us to know what the business will be that we shall be asked to transact.

The Honourable Pandit Jawaharlal Nehru: In this matter Government are entirely in the hands of the House; they are prepared to agree to any procedure or any change in the time-table which is convenient to honourable

[Pandit Jawaharlal Nehru]

members. My suggestion was made because we consulted a number of members and they preferred that particular procedure. There is no proposal, so far as I know, of bringing any new matter before the House but only of dealing with the business already on the order paper. So presumably members are acquainted with that business. For the rest I am in your hands.

Pandit Hirday Nath Kunzru: Of course the matters to be considered are already on the Order paper but the Prime Minister should bear with us that there have been so many Bills before this House that it has been virtually impossible even for the most industrious of us to look into more than a very few Bills. The fact, therefore, that we shall consider only such questions as have already been placed on the agenda will not help us in a proper consideration, for the simple reason that we have not yet had enough time to look into them.

Dr. B. Pattabhi Sitaramayya (Madras: General): Sir, may I add one word to what the Prime Minister said? It is only a question of balancing inconvenience,—that is inevitalbe,—either by prolonging the session or by increasing the hours of sitting. The majority of our friends seem to think—so far as it has been possible for us to ascertain their views—that the latter course is better. As the Prime Minister has explained, no new business is sought to be brought forward and tomorrow is merely a continuation of the non-official business of the previous day. We have plenty of time to prepare the case. So far as the business already finished is concerned, we have gone through a lot of it. There remains very little and it should not be said that we have left over the business of the session to a later date. I therefore, approve of the Prime Minister's suggestion and hope the House will agree.

Prof. Shibban Lal Saksena (U.P.: General): Sir, there are still eleven Bills to be discussed and passed and as Dr. Kunzru said, it will be very difficult for us to study these Bills carefully. I personally think that it is much better to have a day more to be able to study the Bills and discuss them properly. The question is not of convenience or inconvenience but whether the Bills are properly considered and passed. We do not want these to be rushed through and therefore I think it would be much better to have one extra day.

Mr. Nasiruddin Ahmad (West Bengal: Muslim): Sir, as one of the members who have to devote their attention to the bumbler sides of a Bill, I suggest that it is impossible for any member to look into Bills with the amount of care that they deserve. We find every day that ordinary mistakes are being repeated from Bill to Bill in spite of their being mentioned in the House; and we cannot look into them on the floor of the House either. There are a few major Bills on the agenda and if we have to look into them and be of some help to the House, I think the course suggested by the Honourable Prime Minister will be inconvenient though of course if that is the sense of the majority, others will have to obey. The point is not the extra time devoted to the subject in the deliberation in the House, but that those who wish to come prepared after a full study and thereby economise time would find it inconvenient to do so. On the other hand a procedure has developed of accommodating Ministers and accepting Bills with mistakes which are to be corrected outside. This tendency should be checked; and if it is desired that small mistakes and errors should not deserve the serious attention of the House, of course the suggestion made may be accepted. But I think matters of form are as important as matters of substance, and therefore some time should be allowed to members. Those members who have made arrangements to go can cancel their arrangements, and the inconvenience of sitting for a day or two more would not be much in view of the importance of the Bills before the House.

Mr. Speaker: In the matter of the request made by the Prime Minister which was supported by Dr. Sitaramayya and commented upon by other members, I am afraid my position is a bit awkward and embarrassing. I am entirely in the hands of the House; though the discretion may be mine, I will use it as the House desires me to use it. When I say my position is awkward and embarrassing, what I mean is that I have felt that sittings extending beyond 5 P.M. cannot be measured by the length of time; at least, I feel exhausted by the end of the day; and it is not possible to apply the mind to the business before the House, with the vigour and freshness which it is necessary, for the conduct of business in this House. I am therefore personally always unwilling to have an extension beyond 5 P.M. but that is—as I said—entirely in the hands of the House. There are I think certain ways which we can find out for the purpose of economising time. One of them would be perhaps that Government could scrutinise their business and see what is of a type that must be put through before this session ends. The other might be that those honourable members—fortunately there are only a few of them—who feel that they must speak on every subject may as well curtai their speeches and keep to the points of discussion before the House rather than go into generalities and take a longer time. That will also economise time. I do not mean to pass any criticism. I am just suggesting ways and means. Considering these two, it may be just possible for us not to sit for very long hours—two hours have been proposed—and yet finish the business by the 4th.

There is also another aspect. I personally do not favour any legislation being hurried through at the fag end of a session, without a proper consideration of not only the principles of the measures but even of the phraseology of the measures. Therefore, I was suggesting that if the position with regard to the business is reviewed, it may be possible to finish by the 4th. However, in the alternative we may sit for some time longer, but not for two hours longer. I believe it would be most exhausting to sit from 10-45 A.M. to.....

Shri Krishna Chandra Sharma (U.P.: General): The session might begin at 10 in the morning!

Mr. Speaker: For that matter it might begin at 8 o'clock in the morning. I remember on one occasion in the Bombay Assembly I conducted the Assembly from 8 o'clock in the morning till 12 NOON and again from 2 P.M. to 6 P.M.

If it is certain that the business cannot be completed, then we must sit late. I think we should leave it to the Leader of the House and whatever he decides we shall accept.

The Honourable Pandit Jawaharlal Nehru: The question only arose because after a consideration of the matters left over, we came to the conclusion that it was not possible, or hardly possible, to get through the urgent matters in the time at our disposal. Of course no one can judge. The matter is in the hands of the House. It is just possible that what appears to be a relatively simple matter may be argued for hours, or something that should take more time may take less. But taking a reasonable view of the situation and after deleting what was not urgent, the rest may require more time than available. We are however going into the matter at the end of the day to find out what can be postponed.

As I said previously, Government is entirely willing to allot an extra day. It is a matter for the convenience of the House, not so much of the Government, because Members of Government have to work for much more than up

[Pandit Jawaharlal Nehru]

to 5 P.M. in any day. We have to work till the small hours of the morning whether here or elsewhere. It would mean transferring the venue of work from some other place to the Chamber here. So I do not know how to decide it myself because I was prepared to accept the other alternative.

First, what I have suggested is that this should apply for two days only. Not today: but only to-morrow and the day after. If it is found possible for us to finish the work earlier then the day after tomorrow we will not sit till late. On the other hand if there is a general consensus of opinion that in order to give full consideration we should not hurry through this, I am prepared for the House to sit on Monday.

Mr. Speaker: Now the position is clarified to a much greater extent. Anyway we are not sitting today for two hours more. Let us see what progress we make and the matter can be decided tomorrow.

Shri M. Tirumala Rao (Madras: General): There is no use prolonging the issue like this and keeping things in the air.

Mr. Speaker: We shall know the position by this evening.

The Honourable Pandit Jawaharlal Nehru: Because of the number of Committee meetings, members should stay on for a day or two more.

Mr. Speaker: However, we will review the position.

Shri K. Hanumanthaiya (Mysore State): We must know definitely when the session closes. As the Honourable the Leader of the House suggested all members here have not the good fortune of being elected on Committees and most of us will have no work to do. Therefore I request that the date be definitely known so that we may go and do some work in our respective home towns.

Mr. Speaker: Any further time taken in this discussion makes the prolongation a certainty.

ELECTION TO STANDING COMMITTEE FOR MINISTRY OF RELIEF AND REHABILITATION

The Honourable Shri Mohan Lal Saksena (Minister of State for Relief and Rehabilitation): Sir, I move:

"That this Assembly do proceed to elect, in such manner as the Honourable the Speaker may direct, one member to serve until the end of the financial year 1948-49 on the Standing Committee to advise on subjects concerning the Ministry of Relief and Rehabilitation vice Mr. A. P. Pattani resigned."

Mr. Speaker: The question is:

"That this Assembly do proceed to elect, in such manner as the Honourable the Speaker may direct, one member to serve until the end of the financial year 1948-49 on the Standing Committee to advise on subjects concerning the Ministry of Relief and Rehabilitation vice Mr. A. P. Pattani resigned"

The motion was adopted.

Mr. Speaker: I have to inform honourable members that for the purpose of election by means of the single transferable vote of a member to the Standing Committee for the Ministry of Relief and Rehabilitation the programme of dates will be as follows:

Nomination to be filed in the Notice Office upto 4 P.M. today.

Election, if necessary, will be held on Friday, the 3rd September, in the Assistant Secretary's room (No. 21) in the Council House between the hours of 10-30 A.M. and 1 P.M.

ELECTION TO STANDING COMMITTEES FOR MINISTRY OF WORKS, MINES AND POWER AND FOR ROADS

Mr. Speaker: I have also to inform the Assembly that upto the time fixed for receiving nominations for the Standing Committee for the Ministry of Works, Mines and Power and Standing Committee for Roads, one nomination in the case of the first and two nominations in the case of the second were received. As the number of candidates is equal to the number of vacancies in each of the two Committees. I declare the following members to be duly elected:

Standing Committee for the Ministry of Works, Mines and Power.—Mr. E. John Philippose.

Standing Committee for Roads.—(1) Shri Moturi Satyanarayana and (2) Mr. R. V. Thomas.

PATENTS (EXTENSION OF TERM) BILL

The Honourable Dr. Syama Prasad Mookerjee (Minister for Industry and Supply): Sir, I beg to move for leave to introduce a Bill to make provision for the extension of the term of patent in certain cases.

Mr. Speaker: The question is:

"That leave be granted to introduce a Bill to make provision for the extension of the term of patent in certain cases."

The motion was adopted.

The Honourable Dr. Syama Prasad Mookerjee: Sir, I introduce the Bill.

RESETTLEMENT OF DISPLACED PERSONS (LAND ACQUISITION) BILL

The Honourable Shri Mohan Lal Saksena (Minister of State for Relief and Rehabilitation): Sir, I move for leave to introduce a Bill to provide for the speedy acquisition of land for the resettlement of displaced persons.

Mr. Speaker: The question is:

"That leave be granted to introduce a Bill to provide for the speedy acquisition of land for the resettlement of displaced persons."

The motion was adopted.

The Honourable Shri Mohan Lal Saksena: Sir, I introduce the Bill.

EXCHANGE OF PRISONERS BILL—*concld.*

Mr. Speaker: The House will now proceed with the further consideration of the following motion moved by the Honourable Shri N. Gopalaswami Ayyangar yesterday:

"That the Bill to provide, in pursuance of an agreement with Pakistan for the exchange of prisoners, for the transfer of certain prisoners from India to Pakistan and the reception in India of certain prisoners from Pakistan, be taken into consideration."

I believe the Honourable the Minister's speech was unfinished.

The Honourable Shri N. Gopalaswami Ayyangar (Minister without Portfolio): It was finished.

Mr. R. K. Sidhva (C.P. and Berar: General): In going through the Bill I find that when passed it will be immediately applicable to East Punjab and later on when the Government sees fit it will be applicable to the other parts of both the Dominions. I do not understand why a distinction has been made when both the Dominions have come to a settlement for exchanging populations between one Dominion and another. Actually the exchange has taken

[Mr. R. K. Sidhva]

place barring very few that are held over. Although I can understand that Government may by notification do immediately, when a distinction has been made I have my doubts about the application of this Act in the other parts of Pakistan. I would suggest therefore that this Bill when it becomes law should be applied to the entire Western Pakistan and no portion should be held over for the purpose of declaration by notification. (*Pandit Balkrishna Sharma*: "You have no jurisdiction over there").

The Honourable Minister while introducing the Bill yesterday made a long statement about the agreement that has been arrived at between the Dominions of India and Pakistan as to the exchange of prisoners from the West Punjab. As far as the other parts of Pakistan are concerned he stated that in the event of prisoners being willing to be sent over to India they will be sent to the Indian territory. Who will verify whether or not such prisoners want to come to India? The Government of India should arrange a procedure whereby our officers should also be present to verify the fact whether the prisoners in Western Pakistan are willing to come over or not. The Honourable Minister used the words "expressed his willingness". The Pakistan Government may say that the prisoners are not willing to come. Are the Government prepared to accept that statement, even though it may not be correct? To avoid all this it is desirable that an agency should be established whereby some officer on our behalf would verify the statement of the Pakistan Government on behalf of the prisoners concerned.

The Honourable Minister also stated that the exchange when it took place some months ago the Pakistan Dominion did not adhere to the agreement arrived at and that after sending away one batch they stopped sending the further batches. Therefore he suggested that now a system would be adopted whereby prisoners from Pakistan will be brought over to our border and prisoners from India will be taken to their border and then exchanged. I do not know whether that is reciprocal, whether it will be simultaneous and where is the guarantee that the prisoners for India will be brought while we send the prisoners here to their territory. Government have frequently told us in reply to questions that such and such an agreement had been entered into at certain conferences but it is not adhered to by the Pakistan Government and when questioned the Honourable Ministers have stated that the Pakistan Dominion being an independent government they could only use their good offices and beyond that they could not go. That means that as far as Pakistan is concerned this agreement will go into the wastepaper basket, unless proper arrangements are made. I would suggest therefore that the Honourable Minister should make a very firm arrangement for the exchange of prisoners, so that our prisoners are safe from the other side and that the number sent over from here is the same as we get from there. If the number from Western Pakistan is 500, the same number should be sent from here. Otherwise the exchange should not take place. When there is an equal number, the balance should be adjusted when the others are sent. We do not know what is the total number of prisoners in Western Pakistan. It may be more or it may be less than the number here. . . . .

Mr. Speaker: May I suggest to the honourable member, that as I understand the position, the legislation is merely to give effect to what the Pakistan Government and we have agreed to do. It is not for us, at present, to determine the various ways, methods or means as to how the whole thing is to be carried out. It is of no use, unless the Pakistan Government agrees. (*Mr. R. K. Sidhva*: "They have agreed". Yes, they have agreed. The object of the present legislation is merely to give effect to whatever has been agreed to. It

is no use at present going into the details of how things should be, what precautions should be taken and what not. The whole question has been so many times brought before this House by honourable members in the form of questions and supplementary questions and various suggestions have also been made. So it is better that we restrict ourselves only to the scope of the Bill, rather than go into the wider question as to how we should regulate our relations, if there is a breach of the agreement by Pakistan Government; for then, there will be no end. It will be outside the scope of the Bill. I am not saying this merely because there is an urgency to put through quickly as much business as possible. The honourable member's suggestions can be given to the Honourable Minister outside the House.

Mr. R. K. Sidhva: Sir, this Bill has originated out of the Inter-Dominion Conference. You were not in the Chair yesterday when the Honourable Minister gave us a detailed statement as to how the prisoners will be exchanged and so on. In reply to that I was suggesting that while he is exchanging the prisoners he might bear in mind that the same number should be exchanged with the other side. I was giving a reply to what he stated yesterday. . . . .

Mr. Speaker: He will bear this in mind. This Bill seems to be more a formal business. The Honourable Minister has explained to the House the whole position. If any suggestions are to be made now, then we shall be going out of the scope of the Bill. What the agreement should be is an entirely different matter. This piece of legislation is intended to give effect to the agreement. The agreement is not before the House.

Mr. R. K. Sidhva: Because of our experience in the past of agreements not being adhered to by Pakistan I was making a request to the Honourable Minister: nothing else.

As regards under-trial prisoners the Honourable Minister stated that the Bill covers their cases also. I am very glad of that but I do not know what will be the procedure about these under-trial prisoners, whether they will be tried here and if so, whether witnesses will be brought over from Pakistan and as regards our under-trial prisoners who go there, witnesses from India will be sent there. That requires a little clarification. As regards the sentences given to the prisoners while they were here or in the other Dominion will they be released by each Dominion after exchange or they will have to complete their sentences. That should also be made clear. If a prisoner has been sentenced to 10 years imprisonment, will the sentence be remitted or the prisoner will have to complete the remaining portion? Similarly as regards the prisoners sent to the other side. That is an important point. There may be prisoners who have been sentenced to be hanged or transported for life: some may be political prisoners. What will happen to them? Has any agreement been arrived at. I would like to know what the Government of India intend to do in this respect. That is a question which I would like to put to the Honourable Minister. I would like the Honourable Minister to state whether he is sure that the Pakistan Government will enact immediately similar law to Sind or not—I mean whether there is some doubt about this Act coming into force in Sind immediately. If so I would like to know the reason. Today the answer was given that barring 2 lakhs Harijans there are hardly 90,000 Hindus in the whole of Sind. It is not possible for them to be sent out to India unless the steamer transport again exists or some other arrangement is made. In these circumstances I would like to know whether Sind has been included or not—in the agreement for the purpose of transfer of prisoners. If it is not I want to know the reason.

[Mr. R. K. Sidhva]

There are many political cases being tried in Sind today. Some are under-trial cases; I would like to know from that point of view as to what will be the position. While agreement has been reached between the two Dominions the political cases of the under-trials are still being proceeded with. They have been going on since one and a half years. Notwithstanding the decision of the two Dominions and the agreements, they have been going on for one and a half years without any decision being arrived at by the Pakistan Government. The Government of India have frequently told us that the Pakistan Government do not adhere to the clauses of the Agreements that are arrived at. As such I am very anxious to know what arrangements they will make if even after this Act they do not carry out the terms. My anxiety is only that. I do want that we should play our part honestly—as we will play. But I do not want the other side to give excuses, under any circumstances, and take us by surprise, as in many respects they have done, achieving their own object and not allowing justice to play its fair part. I certainly welcome the Bill in the sense that it is very desirable. While all the nationals have been transferred from one Dominion to the other there is no reason why the prisoners should be kept there, particularly when the officers of the jails are of different communities. I receive letters that our prisoners are not being treated fairly. I therefore submit that this Bill should be applied to the whole of India.

Shri H. V. Kamath (C.P. and Berar: General): Mr. Speaker, Sir, I find that the only parallel to this measure is the exchange of prisoners of war during war time or after that. It is true that we have had no war here—In India or in Pakistan—but during the last twelve months conditions were such that they could almost be said to have been tantamount to undeclared war. If not a war, there has at least been a great storm here and I would describe these prisoners as orphans of the storm It is very happy that the Government is going to make arrangement for the exchange of these orphans of the storm from one Dominion to the other

Certain issues arise in connection with the implementation of the Agreement which has been effected between the Governments of Pakistan and India. It is said in the Preamble "Whereas it is necessary to provide in pursuance of the said agreement for the transfer of certain prisoners from India to Pakistan and for the reception in India of certain prisoners from Pakistan". I suppose that the discussion will be confined to this aspect of the Bill—how far and how long we will take for receiving prisoners from Pakistan to India and for sending prisoners from India to Pakistan. My friend Mr. Sidhva remarked that there is no provision about Sind and other Provinces of Pakistan. So far as I can remember, the Honourable Minister in the course of his speech yesterday did mention that Sind, Baluchistan and the North-West Frontier Province were also included,.....

Mr. R. K. Sidhva: It will be applied later on.

Shri H. V. Kamath:.....and that the Government of Pakistan had agreed to include these Provinces within the ambit of this measure.

Mr. R. K. Sidhva: I said the Act should be applied immediately.

Shri H. V. Kamath: This Bill applies to India. How can it have jurisdiction over Pakistan? We cannot apply this Bill to Pakistan.

Mr. Speaker: The point is obvious. The honourable member may proceed.

Shri H. V. Kamath: The other day, in connection with a question raised on the floor of this House, I made a reference to certain persons in Pakistan jails, particularly in Sind jails. There are not many perhaps, but I personally

know that there is at present one left who has been there since the 'Quit India' movement was started in 1942. I do not know in which particular jail he is—whether Karachi jail or Hyderabad jail. I am told his name is Nanak Ishar Das Anuja. He was sentenced to nine years imprisonment in 1942. He has not yet been released. He is in some jail in Pakistan—in Sind. I would request the Honourable Minister to look into the case and see that this person who was convicted in 1942 and has since been held in Pakistan jail, is also included in the list of persons to be transferred from Pakistan to India. Then there are, I understand, two persons—one is Wanchoo Kewalram; another is Mero Jaisa Ram,.....

Mr. Speaker: I think he may give the list of names outside the House.

Shri H. V. Kamath:..... who absconded from Pakistan in 1942 but against whom warrants are still pending. They have not been withdrawn by the Pakistan Government. Therefore it is necessary that the Government should give an assurance, make a statement or announcement that if these persons discover themselves on Indian soil they will not be extradited or sent to Pakistan or taken up for trial in India.

There is another aspect to which Mr. Sidhva casually referred. That is how far we can be sure that even after having agreed to repatriate or send some prisoners from Pakistan to India, the Pakistan Government, would implement it in letter as well as in spirit. That is a very moot point. The other day the Prime Minister speaking, I believe, if my memory does not betray me, somewhere in South India said that the edifice of the Pakistan Government has been built on lies and deceit. And he quoted instances to show how Pakistan has not honoured her agreements with India and how this edifice which was founded on communal hatred has been built and reared on lies and deceit. If that spirit persists with the Government of Pakistan I for one would request the Government to see that such things do not happen—that such agreements made in good faith and in good spirit, made as men of honour, are not violated in practice. Because, it is very likely that the Government of Pakistan may not supply to us—not deliberately perhaps, but inadvertently—the lists of all the persons held by them in their jails. Who is going to go from here to Pakistan, go to the jails there and see what persons are held there and whose names are concealed from the lists supplied to us? I find that the Pakistan Radio and some of their leaders still refer to India as an enemy. It is a very unfortunate state of affairs that though we are doing everything, our very best, to be friendly with Pakistan, their leaders continue to refer to India—even on the day of Independence, the 15th August, one of their leaders referred to India as the enemy of Pakistan. If that is the outlook that guides and orientates their policy then it is very likely that even in this matter of exchange of prisoners everything they do may not be aboveboard. We have to be cautious and we have to be on our guard to see that this agreement which has been arrived at between us and them is honoured in letter and in spirit. It is all very well for us to say that whatever Pakistan may do or may not do, we shall do the right. That is being said in certain quarters. They say that whatever Pakistan may do or may not do, we shall do the right. But, Sir, I do not feel personally. . . .

Mr. Speaker: I am afraid the honourable member is going into a repetition of the arguments already advanced. I have pointed out to Mr. Sidhva that all that question need not be discussed at this stage. The discussion is purely as regards the legislation and he can make any suggestions with regard to its provisions. In fact, he is repeating the arguments of Mr. Sidhva and arguments on the way the arrangements have to be come to. I do not think it is at all relevant to this subject. There will be no end to it, if he goes into

[Mr. Speaker]

the details of the relations of the Indian Dominion with the Pakistan Government—the background, the experience, the future pitfalls and all that—if he does so there will be no end to this discussion. All that is not relevant on this discussion.

Shri H. V. Kamath: Sir, I bow to your ruling, but I thought, as the Preamble says, that we are going to provide in pursuance of the said agreement for the transfer of certain prisoners, and my point was how far this transfer will be completely effected.

Mr. Speaker: That is what he has already referred to.

An Honourable Member: It is for the Government to see.

Mr. Speaker: I see no new point; if he has any new points to suggest . . .

Shri H. V. Kamath: I will come to that new point, Sir.

Mr. Speaker: Time is running against us.

Shri H. V. Kamath: Or we are racing against time.

Today there was a Question on the list which unfortunately did not come up for oral answer. It was Question No. 771 by Sardar Hukam Singh asking for information. If that Question had been answered today, I need not have referred to it now. That Question is relevant in the present context. It is about non-muslims detained in mental hospitals in Western Pakistan. It may be that they were not detained in jails. But a storm had broken out wherein homes were shattered, estates and properties lost and these men must have lost their balance of mind. They must be treated as well as anybody who is at present in Pakistan jails. The storm has affected them as well as those who are today held in Pakistan jails. Therefore, I would request the Government to see that these detainees or inmates of mental hospitals in Western Pakistan, in so far as they were admitted after the 15th August 1947, should also be considered and their cases will have to be examined. I do not say that all the inmates of the lunatic asylums must be brought over here, but those who have been affected by the events that supervened after the 15th August 1947, and who have been proved to be suffering from the effects of that storm, should be brought here along with the other prisoners.

One last point, Sir, I refer to it with great trepidation and if I go astray you will please pull me up. That point is this: the Minister yesterday, in moving the Bill for consideration of the House, referred to—he did not mention the name but he referred to—a certain case in Delhi which has exercised the minds of many people in our country. I too will not refer by name today—I will follow the very sound rule he adopted. But I would have suggested, or I would have liked that our Government, while negotiating with the Pakistan Government, should have tried at least, if not insisted upon, to get into India two of our comrades—I can recall only these two prominent ones, but there may be others. These two very prominent colleagues of ours have been in the Indian National Congress for two decades or over; they have suffered in the freedom movement and have been comrades in distress for the last so many years. Sir, I refer to Khan Abdul Gaffar Khan and Dr. Khan Sahib. I should have been very happy if these two leaders of the Congress—till lately—were brought to India. And we would have been very glad to send from India to Pakistan one who disturbed communal harmony, practised communal hatred. It would have been a grand exchange—a sight for the Gods—a heavenly exchange—if we would have welcomed in our midst these two who preached communal harmony and communal concord all their lives, who worked and sacrificed for the unity and independence of India.

پنڈت ٹھاکر داس بھارگو : اس بل کے اندر جیسا کہ جناب والا نے فرمایا ہے اگر اسی پر اکتفا کیا جاتا کہ اس کو صرف exchange of prisoners تک ہی محدود رکھا جاتا تو بہت اچھا ہوتا ۔

میں نہایت ادب سے اس بل کے بارے میں صرف دو منٹ لینا چاہتا ہوں ۔ میں یہ گزارش کرونگا کہ اگر اب بھی ممکن ہو تو اس بل کے scope کو نہ بڑھایا جائے ۔

(*English translation of the above speech*).

Pandit Thakur Das Bhargava (East Punjab: General): Sir, It would have been much better as you have said, if the scope of this Bill had been restricted to the exchange of prisoners only. With due respect, I would take only two minutes on this Bill and would submit that even if it was now possible, the scope of this Bill should not be enlarged.

(*The honourable member then continued in English*).

Sir, with your permission I would suggest that this Bill is not restricted in scope to the matter of exchange of prisoners only. If you kindly see clause 5 and amendment No. 20 which appears in the name of the Honourable Shri Gopalaswami Ayyangar, it would appear that the scope of the Bill is much greater than it should have been. Whatever the agreement be, so far as the agreement is concerned and the exchange or transfer consequent upon it is concerned, it is quite sufficient for us that the Bill provides for the exchange of prisoners. What would happen to the prisoners after their exchange is a matter in which the Government will have their final say. The Pakistan Government has no concern with it, as our Government will have no concern when the prisoners go to Pakistan and Pakistan Government will deal with these prisoners.

Clause 5 and the proposed amendment No. 20 deal with this matter. I would respectfully beg of the Honourable Member in charge of the Bill to be pleased to delete these two things from here and either, if enactment is necessary, bring another enactment, or by virtue of executive orders regulate the future destiny of prisoners who are brought here. This amendment No. 19 deals with the fate of those who will be brought here. What the amendment seeks to do is to invest the Judgment of the Pakistan Courts with a certain sanctity so that those judgments become binding on our Courts.

I was referring to amendment No. 20 by Shri Gopalaswami Ayyangar. I beg to submit that I have met many of the prisoners who have come here from Pakistan by virtue of the exchange which took place some time ago.

Those prisoners have given to me very gruesome details of the tyranny exercised by the Courts in Pakistan. I know from June to August 1947 how the courts in Pakistan were behaving. Even the High Court was affected and the judgments were not rightly given but given with very great bias against particular classes of people because at that time conditions were not normal. Any sentence passed in those days should not bind our hands and we should decide after the prisoners have come what is to be done with those prisoners.

We know that in many cases innocent persons were sentenced to imprisonment and they were given sentences in other ways even when they did not deserve them, so that the judgments passed on them are open to review. I can tell you of two or three cases which passed through my hands. There was a case in the Punjab in Ferozepur District where two persons accused of murder were exchanged and they were let off scot-free in Pakistan. I know

[Pandit Thakur Das Bhargava]

of many people who have come back from Pakistan who were under-trial prisoners before they were exchanged. They are being tried in Gurgaon. So this question of trial of prisoners has nothing to do with this Bill and similarly the jurisdiction of the courts to try a person when he returns from Pakistan after having been exchanged will depend upon the law at present in vogue in this country. Suppose a person is exchanged and thereafter he turns up again with or without the permission of the Government of India, suppose he is an undertrial prisoner, what we shall do with him will be determined by the provisions of the Criminal Procedure Code and not this Bill. I know about 80 men who were prisoners here and who were accused under Sections 302 and 395, who went to Pakistan by way of exchange as prisoners and then they were let off there, and finding that conditions there were not good, they returned back to India. I do not know whether they returned with or without the permission of Government of India and they have been arrested and they are now in jail in Gurgaon and are again being prosecuted under the Sections for which they were previously undergoing trials. I do not want the present law of the land to be changed. In fact, both these matters are not germane to this subject and as pointed out by you, it would be more proper that we do not discuss the matter here and regard the scope of the Bill as restricted to mere exchange. If this is accepted, then there would be no occasion for me to move my amendment or oppose the amendment of my honourable friend.

Prof. Shibban Lal Saksena (U. P.: General): Sir, I have carefully listened to the speech of the Honourable Minister yesterday and I also carefully studied this Bill. In sub-clause (8) of clause 1, we say that this applies to East Punjab, although in the next sub-clause it is said that it can be extended to any other province or State by notification and in both places it is stated, as you will see from the definition of "transferable prisoner" in clause 2, this Act applies to any person who, being a Muslim, is willing to be transferred to Pakistan under the provisions of this Act. Now, I do not like this kind of provision. It is a serious slur upon Muslims here, that because they have been sentenced to imprisonment or penalties, they should be willing to go to Pakistan to find acquittal or release there. This assumes that Muslims do not look upon India as their motherland. I do feel that this will encourage Muslim prisoners in India to expect in Pakistan a sort of immunity from imprisonment or penalties for whatever crime they commit in India, and crime by Muslims will increase. (*Pandit Thakur Das Bhargava*: "They have been released.") Those who went from here have already been released. I know that. Therefore, I studied very carefully whether this Bill is proper or not. Last evening when the Honourable Minister was telling us the reasons for this Bill, he said that an Ordinance had already been passed and what we are doing here is to give our seal of approval upon that Ordinance. I think this is no proper reason. In fact, the Ordinance was passed without consulting us. We object to many things in that Ordinance. As the statement of Objects and Reasons of this Bill itself says: "The agreement worked for some time and a large number of non-Muslim prisoners were received from West Punjab and all Muslim prisoners except about 300 were returned to Pakistan from East Punjab." Thus the original agreement which was concluded was for exchange of prisoners between East Punjab and West Pakistan and it worked well for some time and then Pakistan insisted on certain other prisoners in Delhi not falling within the original agreement also being returned to them, and because Government did not think it proper at that time to agree, therefore they did not comply for sometime and now they have brought this Bill in order to give effect to the demands of the Pakistan Government. I think this kind of yielding is quite wrong. If an agreement had been concluded, it ought to have been fulfilled; if it was not fulfilled it ought to have been ended then and there. Merely because after making an

agreement, Pakistan wants certain other bargains and wants to amend the original agreement for this purpose, we should not have agreed. This kind of thing I intensely dislike. I do not want that because a party to the original agreement wanted to bargain and get something more and therefore to change it, so we should agree. I dislike this kind of thing. I therefore take this occasion to say that this kind of thing is not proper and I hope this would not happen in future. If we throw out this Bill it would mean censure on the Government which has already yielded to the demands of Pakistan against public feeling; so we have to agree to this Bill, but I do want to tell the Government that the country does not like our always yielding to the other side and presenting the legislature with a *fait accompli*. This encourages Pakistan to think that by breaking agreements they can get a better bargain.

Then, Sir, I have carefully considered what will be the benefit of this Agreement. Some prisoners will come here. On coming here they will have to undergo the sentence which they have been given probably by the Pakistan courts. Some will be hanged probably and others will have to undergo sentences of imprisonment. I do not see what is the fun of their coming here merely to execute the balance of their sentence. If you want this Bill to show them some mercy, some kindness, then pardon should be granted to them. Bring them here and release them, so that they may feel that they have come to their country and have been released. If they come here merly to rot again in jail, I do not see the fun in their being brought here. They may as well rot in Pakistan jails rather than in our jails here. I therefore think that this provision that they will come here and they will have again to undergo the sentence is not proper. As my friend has pointed out, the prisoners sent from here to Pakistan have been released. I therefore think that prisoners who come from Pakistan should also be released and should not be required to undergo their sentences. If you cannot do that, then don't get them at all here. Let them remain there. I know the tyranny which they are suffering there. We heard only the other day that in Rawalpindi a prisoner was killed in jail. All these things are really horrible, but if you really want they should, after undergoing a year or so of imprisonment in Pakistan, come here only to continue to undergo imprisonment, then what is the use of it to them? You must see that when they come here they will be released and they will be allowed a fresh lease of life and given an opportunity to become good citizens of this country. There is no sense in this Bill if we do otherwise.

Another omission in this Bill is about Bengal. You are quite prepared to extend it to the entire country, but Pakistan is only prepared to do it in respect of Western Pakistan. So what about East Bengal? I think there are many patriots of this country who may be languishing in Eastern Pakistan jails. They cannot come under this agreement. If they wanted to bargain and ask for the exchange of some particular prisoners to Western Pakistan, you should also have asked them for exchange of prisoners from East Bengal, so that our patriots who may be imprisoned there may come here. I think that it is not proper that we should treat only Western Pakistan as Pakistan and treat Eastern Pakistan as not Pakistan. So if we want to do something in this respect, we must see that our prisoners in Eastern Pakistan are also brought here.

Mr. Speaker: But does the Bill make any such distinction, either between Eastern Pakistan or Western Pakistan?

Prof. Shibban Lal Saksena: Yes, Sir. Yesterday in his speech the Honourable Minister said that the agreement applies only to East Punjab and Western Pakistan.

Mr. Speaker: I think the Bill speaks of Pakistan. Am I right there?

The Honourable Shri N. Gopalaswami Ayyangar: This agreement relates only to Western Pakistan.

Mr. Nasiruddin Ahmad (West Bengal: Muslim): But it can be extended to other parts of India.

Shri M. Ananthasayanam Ayyangar (Madras: General): There is no agreement for Eastern Pakistan.

Mr. Speaker: There may not be any agreement, but the Bill is one. It does not speak in terms of Eastern or Western Pakistan. And it can be extended to Eastern Pakistan.

The Honourable Shri N. Gopalaswami Ayyangar: No, Sir, but in view of an amendment which I shall move there would be no objection to its being extended to Eastern Bengal when that becomes necessary and has become a matter of agreement.

Prof. Shibban Lal Saksena: I am glad, Sir, for the Honourable Minister's explanation. The prisoners lying in Eastern Pakistan should also be brought here and released.

Then, Sir, I would only refer to one other matter. My honourable friend Mr. Kamath said that because we are sending one prisoner from here, we should also try to get distinguished prisoners like Khan Abdul Ghaffar Khan and Khan Sahib from there. I do not think it is very wise for us to say that Mr. Kamath has done injustice to them. I do not think the Khan brothers would like to come here. That would be unpatriotic on their part. I think Khan Abdul Ghaffar Khan and Khan Sahib are doing a great work there. They are leading a movement which probably is bound ultimately to change the whole face of Pakistan. They are patriots, and Pakistan is now their country. They are raising their powerful voice against the present mad policies of the Pakistan Government because they are convinced that these policies will ruin Pakistan. They have, fearlessly and deliberately chosen to tell the truth to their countrymen without counting the cost. They would not like to save their skin like cowards by seeking transfer under any such Indo-Pakistan Government. They can only bear comparison with Socrates, and I can imagine them cheerfully drinking the cup of hemlock after scornfully rejecting the offer of escape from prison. May their patriotic efforts in the service of their nation be crowned with success.

The Honourable Shri N. Gopalaswami Ayyangar: Mr. Speaker, Sir, I wish to say only a few words. In the debate that has taken place on my motion, there was some point made by Mr. Sidhva about the willingness of prisoners to be transferred to the other Dominion. That they should be willing is a matter of agreement between the two Dominions. Both Dominions have agreed that those who are willing to be transferred should be transferred, and as a matter of fact, I remember only a day or two ago having an enquiry from Pakistan in regard to certain prisoners in Sind, that they are saying that they do not want to go to India. I would like to say that that statement as to willingness is tested—and we have instructed our High Commissioner personally to verify whether the fact of unwillingness is correct. If that is correct, if they want to stay in Pakistan, we cannot compel them to come over to India.

Sir, with regard to the Bill being immediately applicable to Eastern Punjab, I wish only to say this. An amendment which I shall be moving will make the Act extend to the whole of India. It would be brought into force in East Punjab and it can be extended to any province or state in India, whenever that is necessary. As a matter of fact, we are extending it to those areas which under the agreement we have already entered into with Pakistan come

under the scheme of exchange. We can extend it to other provinces and States when that becomes necessary. After all this extension relates only to the transfer of prisoners by us from India to Pakistan. The extension to Sind is a matter for the Pakistan Government and not for us, and we expect, I take it, that Pakistan has already taken that action, that the Pakistan Government has already extended it to Sind, because it is part of their agreement with us that prisoners in Sind should come within this agreement of exchange.

Then, Sir, about under-trials, it has been said that there is no point in getting prisoners over from the other side if we are going to execute the sentences already inflicted on them by Pakistan courts or we are going to continue the trial of such prisoners, which was unfinished in Pakistan before they are transferred over to India. I personally would have welcomed it because it would have lightened our labours very greatly. But as a matter of arrangement between the two dominions and from the larger standpoint of offenders against society being dealt with for crimes committed by them, it has been agreed between the two dominions that we should take over the prisoners at the stage at which the Pakistan Government and the Pakistan courts have dealt with them on the day of the transfer, and Pakistan takes over our prisoners under the same conditions. When they come over here let us assume it is a case of a convict prisoner. Now, normally the remainder of his sentence will have to be executed here, but it is open under the law which exists in this country for us to review the cases of such prisoners and either reduce their sentences or remit their sentences according as we think the merits of the case justify. Similarly in the case of under-trial prisoners when they come over here, it is open to us to examine the records of the case and take such action under the law and according to the conditions in this country. We might either continue the prosecutions or if we do not think that the case is of sufficient importance, then we can withdraw the cases. We can deal with security prisoners by dealing with the balance of the security period for which they may be undergoing sentences in whatever way we think it is proper for us to do. Similarly in the case of detenus, we may choose to release them. If a man has been detained in Pakistan for political reasons and not for crimes to be proved in a court, that may be a strong ground for our releasing him straightaway and all that is within our competence.

I explained yesterday that the law in force in East Punjab where these persons will be received and the law in force in Delhi, and Ajmer-Merwara to which the East Punjab Act will be extended, provides adequately for dealing with every class of prisoner that we take over from Pakistan. On the point raised by my honourable friend, Pandit Thakurdas Bhargava, there is something to be said for his point of view. But we thought that, once we received prisoners from the other side, we should indicate exactly what should be done with them. There are cases where we transfer prisoners over to the other side and they come back here either having been tried and sentenced there or escaping from prisons there and perhaps trying to take advantage of better conditions in India, but there is a provision in this Bill itself that no such person can return to India without the express permission in writing from the Central Government. Before that permission is given, I take it, that each individual's case will be adequately examined by this Government. In the second place, where they do come without such permission and are found in India, they commit a breach of the provisions of this Act and they can be arrested and tried and sentenced to a term not exceeding three years rigorous imprisonment. If any part of their sentence on the other side has not been served, then the Court that tries this person can sentence him to an additional term of imprisonment equivalent to the balance of the term that has not been served on the other side. But there is one case where perhaps there is a lacuna

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in this particular Bill and if Pandit Thakurdas Bhargava will move his amendment to clause 8, I think, I shall be prepared to suggest an alternative form in which the difficulty he is feeling will be met and we shall be able to remove this lacuna to which I have referred.

The other points that were made were about Pakistan's past conduct. I do not think, as you, Sir, have already pointed out, that this is relevant to the consideration of this Bill. We are trying to eliminate all chance of either party not implementing its obligation under the agreement by collecting the prisoners together on either side at a point on the border to effect the transfer practically in one transaction. We shall see before that transfer is effected that everybody who has to come over here has been included in the list we receive from Pakistan.

Mr. R. K. Sidhva: About the under-trials, Sir?

The Honourable Shri N. Gopalaswami Ayyangar: I think I explained it fully yesterday. When the undertrials are brought over and are received in East Punjab, there is an Act in force in East Punjab providing adequately for the treatment of these repatriated prisoners. That Act will come into force and their cases will be dealt with in accordance with the provisions of that Act.

I do not think I need detain the house further. I have covered most of the important points that were raised in the course of the debate.

Mr. Nasiruddin Ahmad: Sir, I desire clarification on a small matter. There are under-trial prisoners in both the Dominions. If they are exchanged, their trial might lead to difficulties, because the offences would have been committed outside the Dominion in which the trial will take place. The Pakistan offenders who are under-trial have committed offences in Pakistan and *vice versa* Indian under-trial prisoners are alleged to have committed crimes in India. The place of trial, the production of witnesses and several other factors will come in. I desire to know whether there is any law or any contemplated law to deal with these complications. There will be questions of courts jurisdiction. I only desire clarification.

Sardar Hukam Singh (East Punjab: Sikh): There is other question also. So far as I remember you said that the present agreement relates to East Punjab alone. We will send out prisoners from East Punjab, the Acceding States and Delhi while they will send prisoners from the West Punjab, and Acceding States. I want to know whether after we have sent out the Muslim prisoners from East Punjab, States and Delhi, would there be any Muslim prisoners left and they would like to have them after this agreement is completed. What I mean is, if we shall require certain other prisoners and we would like to have them, we will have no chance of reciprocity, and we will be losing this game as well.

Shri H. V. Kamath: On a point of information, Sir, has there been any dead line fixed for the completion of exchange of these prisoners? There is the further point raised by me about the detenus in mental hospitals of Pakistan.

Mr. Speaker: To that there is the reply already in answer to a question that the matter is under consideration.

Babu Ramnarayan Singh (Bihar: General): One question, Sir. Cannot the Government effect the exchange of prisoners without this legislation?

Mr. Speaker: That also may be answered now.

The Honourable Shri N. Gopalaswami Ayyangar: Sir, the Government cannot effect the exchange. By Government, we mean the Executive. The Executive has got to act under the law and unless the Executive is clothed

with the necessary powers by legislation, it cannot transfer prisoners from here over to Pakistan. But it is quite possible that we shall be quite prepared to receive Hindus from Pakistan without any legislation on our side if we were to adopt the policy that Professor Shibban Lal Saksena recommended and if Pakistan will make a present of all Hindu and Sikh prisoners in Pakistan, no legislation would be necessary. But, Pakistan will not hand over any prisoners from the other side unless we transfer prisoners over to the other side and for effecting that transfer legislation is necessary.

With regard to the question of reciprocity, I believe there is some misapprehension in the minds of honourable members. Reciprocity is only with regard to the fact of exchange. It does not extend to the numbers exchanged. Pakistan has agreed that every Hindu and Sikh prisoner in the Jails in the areas to which this scheme extends will be sent over to India. We have agreed that every Muslim prisoner in the areas to which the scheme extends in India will be transferred over. If our numbers are less than the numbers in Pakistan, we are still entitled to and shall insist upon the whole lot of them being transferred over to India. I think I have made this point clear already. If there is any doubt about it, let me clear it once and for all.

And now the points which my honourable friend Mr. Naziruddin Ahmad raised. He referred to the offenders after they are received here being Indian nationals or people who will become Indian nationals, who had committed offences in Pakistan. His very delicately poised constitutional and legal mind naturally finds some difficulty to understand how such persons could be tried in India. The answer to that is that the law under which they will be tried is an East Punjab Act and that act has provided that prisoners who come over to India,—under-trial prisoners—will be tried under the law in force in East Punjab for offences committed in Pakistan as if such offences had been committed in India. I am sure the honourable member is aware of a similar provision in the Criminal Procedure Code. The law permits that sort of thing. That is how our courts will obtain jurisdiction.

Regarding the dead line, we have been trying to fix a specific date for effecting this transfer. We thought we could do it on the 9th of this month. The lists are coming in. Verification takes a little time. It is proposed that this date will be fixed within a few days thereafter. I am not in a position to announce the actual date. It will depend on how far both sides are ready with their lists, not only with the lists, but with the collection of prisoners at the point at which the transfer is to take place. As soon as we are sure of that, we will effect the exchange.

Mr. Speaker: The question is:

"That the Bill to provide, in pursuance of an agreement with Pakistan for the exchange of prisoners, for the transfer of certain prisoners from India to Pakistan and the reception in India of certain prisoners from Pakistan, be taken into consideration."

The motion was adopted.

Mr. Speaker: We will take the Bill clause by clause at 2-30 P.M.

The Assembly then adjourned for Lunch till Half Past Two of the Clock.

The Assembly re-assembled after Lunch at Half past Two of the Clock Mr. Speaker (the Honourable Mr. G. V. Mavalankar) in the Chair.

Mr. Naziruddin Ahmad: Sir, I move:

"That in part (b) of clause 2 of the Bill, the word 'duly' be omitted."

The Honourable Shri N Gopalaswami Ayyangar: Sir, I accept it.

Mr. Speaker: The question is:

"That in part (b) of clause 2 of the Bill, the word 'duly' be omitted."

The motion was adopted.

The Honourable Shri N. Gopalaswami Ayyangar: Sir, I move:

"That in part (b) of clause 2 of the Bill, after the words 'in a prison' the words and figures 'on or before the 1st day of August 1948' be inserted."

The reason for it is obvious.

Mr. Speaker: The question is:

"That in part (b) of clause 2 of the Bill, after the words 'in a prison' the words and figures 'on or before the 1st day of August 1948' be inserted."

The motion was adopted.

Mr. Nazirudin Ahmad: Sir, I move:

"That in part (c) of clause 2 of the Bill, the word 'the' occurring in line one be omitted."

This is an offensive word in the context and is no part of the definition or name. This occurs in the definition of "the Provincial Government". The word "the" is no part of the name and is only an article, and so the word is not really wanted. Like evacuees from one Dominion to another this article should be evacuated from within the definition to outside it.

Mr. Speaker: Amendment moved:

"That in part (c) of clause 2 of the Bill, the word 'the' occurring in line one be omitted."

The Honourable Shri N. Gopalaswami Ayyangar: Sir, I cannot accept it. I think it is necessary and it is also necessary to indicate that the Government referred to is the Government of a particular State. That is why I believe the Draftsman has included the definite article in the definition.

Mr. Speaker: The question is:

"That in part (c) of clause 2 of the Bill, the word 'the' occurring in line one be omitted."

The motion was negatived.

The Honourable Shri N. Gopalaswami Ayyangar: Sir, I move:

"That in part (c) of clause 2 of the Bill, the words 'in which this Act is brought into force' be omitted."

This is consequential on an amendment which I shall move later to clause 1. I can move it now because I do not think there is likely to be any controversy over that other amendment.

Mr. Speaker: The difficulty is that if it is not done now we shall have to keep clause 2 pending.

The Honourable Shri N. Gopalaswami Ayyangar: I shall explain this amendment to the House. I am proposing the deletion of sub-clause (3) to clause 1. If that is made there is no question of bringing the Act into force later on in any particular area. Clause 1 would then read as if the Act applies to the whole of India. There is no special provision to bring it into force in any particular area and so in clause 2 (c) it is not necessary to keep the words which I want to delete by the amendment I have moved. Sir, I move.

Mr. Speaker: The question is:

"That in part (c) of clause 2 of the Bill, the words 'in which this Act is brought into force' be omitted."

The motion was adopted.

The Honourable Shri N. Gopalaswami Ayyangar: Sir, I move:

"That in part (d) (ii) of clause 2 of the Bill, for the words 'in any other Province or Acceding State in which this Act is brought into force' the words 'in any other part of India', be substituted."

This is the same as the one I mentioned in the case of the other amendment.

Mr. Speaker: The question is:

"That in part (d) (ii) of clause 2 of the Bill, for the words 'in any other Province or Acceding State in which this Act is brought into force' the words 'in any other part of India', be substituted."

The motion was adopted.

Mr. Nasiruddin Ahmad: Sir, I wish to say something about the words "official Gazette." The phrase is defined in the General Clauses Act in section 8 (37 a). For a long series of years "Official" was written with a capital letter. And for some time past there has been some difference of opinion among different Draftsmen, and in some measures it is written with a capital and in others with a small letter. This matter was then raised here and it was agreed —though not on a motion—that the word in the context should begin with a capital letter. In this session in some Bills it has been written with a capital letter and in others with a small letter. I am told that in some recent Acts the word begins with a small letter. But I submit, the real authority is the General Clauses Act and there is no option with the Draftsman. It is the prerogative of the Secretary or of the Secretary acting under the authority of the Speaker, though the Draftsman's opinion may be taken. I think the Draftsman's report should be called and definite instructions should be given. My point is that the practice should be uniform. If it is spelt uniformly with a small letter I would not mind but it should not be written differently in different Bills. In view of the authority of the General Clauses Act and the practice that has obtained for a good part of a century, we cannot depart from that practice simply because we have introduced some mistakes in some recent Bills. In the circumstances I submit that you may be pleased to give a final ruling on the point which will settle the practice once for all.

Mr. Speaker: I am not prepared to say anything at this time. But it is to be seen whether a small 'o' really makes a difference in the substance. Anyway, I am not placing it before the House.

The question is:

"That Clause 2, as amended, stand part of the Bill."

The motion was adopted.

Clause 2, as amended, was added to the Bill.

Clauses 3 to 7 were added to the Bill.

Pandit Thakur Das Bhargava: Sir, I move:

"That in sub-clause (2) of clause 8 of the Bill, the following be added at the end:

'and if at the time of his transfer to Pakistan he was an undertrial prisoner, the jurisdiction of the courts in India shall be revived and such person shall be liable to be dealt with according to law as if he had not been a transferable prisoner.'"

I have already submitted my reasons informally for moving this amendment. I understand the Honourable the Minister in charge of this Bill has an amendment which he has shown to me, and I have only moved this amendment with the idea to have an occasion to place that amendment and I seek the permission of the House for that amendment.

Mr. Speaker: I will then put it in the amended form.

The Honourable Shri N. Gopalaswami Ayyangar: I accept the substance of my honourable friend's case. I think there is a lacuna in the Bill which his amendment tries to fill. But I think the drafting of it has to be more satisfac-

[Shri N. Gopalaswami Ayyangar]

tory and this is the draft I propose, namely, instead of adding a proviso to sub-clause (2) of clause 8, I move:

"That after subclause (2) of Clause 8 of the Bill, the following be added as sub-clause (3):

'(3) If at the time of his transfer to Pakistan, the person contravening the provisions of sub-section (1) was undergoing trial in any court in India for any offence, he shall, without prejudice to the provisions of subsection (2), be liable to be tried for such offence by the same or any other court having jurisdiction:

Provided that if such person has, before his return to India, been tried for the offence by a court of competent jurisdiction in Pakistan and convicted or acquitted of the offence, he shall not be liable to be tried again for the same offence by any court in India.' "

Mr. Speaker: Amendment moved:

"That after sub-clause (2) of clause 8 of the Bill the following be added as sub-clause (3):

'(3) If at the time of his transfer to Pakistan, the person contravening the provisions of sub-section (1) was undergoing a trial in any court in India for any offence, he shall, without prejudice to the provisions of subsection (2), be liable to be tried for such offence by the same or any other court having jurisdiction:

Provided that if such person has, before his return to India, been tried for the offence by a court of competent jurisdiction in Pakistan and convicted or acquitted of the offence, he shall not be liable to be tried again for the same offence by any court in India.' "

Perhaps, the proviso creates a difficulty.

Shri K. Santhanam (Madras: General): The only point I want to know is this: supposing an undertrial is transferred to Pakistan and he is released formally by the authorities according to law. Then suppose he comes here. Will the offence against him be revived? The proviso says that if he is tried and convicted then the offence will not be revived. What happens if he is released according to the usual procedure.?

The Honourable Shri N. Gopalaswami Ayyangar: The answer to that is that each case will have to be dealt with on its merits. We do not propose to prosecute every person who might be released without trial in Pakistan. But we cannot shut our eyes to the fact that people who had committed, say murder in India, were transferred over to Pakistan and are released there without even being tried, if they get back to India we will reserve the right to revive the proceedings against such people and we will not exercise this right only in cases where a trial has taken place and the man has been properly acquitted. That is the whole idea behind this amendment.

Mr. Speaker: I am doubtful whether the proviso will not bar the trial of a person who is undergoing trial here for murder, he is transferred and, as Mr. Santhanam pointed out, is tried there by the Pakistan court and acquitted for want of evidence. That man, even when he returns here, under the terms of the proviso, will not be triable in India. That seems to be the effect.

The Honourable Shri N. Gopalaswami Ayyangar: If the trial is continued in Pakistan and if according to law he is acquitted of the charge that had been framed against him we are prevented from ordering a fresh trial of the man if he happens to return to India. But there may be cases where Pakistan might simply say, we do not care about the trial. You get away: and if then people come back we should be in a position to revive the proceedings.

Shri K. Santhanam: May I know how the trial can be conducted without evidence, without witnesses who are all here?

The Honourable Shri N. Gopalaswami Ayyangar: That difficulty is there. Either the witnesses have got to be got over here for the purposes of the trial or provision exists, I think, in the East Punjab Act for examining the witnesses on commission in one Dominion by Courts which issue commissions in the other. We are providing for those cases. There is no doubt that the inconvenience is there. We have got to face it.

Pandit Thakur Das Bhargava: In regard to the proviso, I have got every doubt whether this proviso is necessary or even effective. I know of a case in which two murderers committed a murder here and then they were under trial. They were sent by way of exchange from East Punjab to Pakistan. They were released there. Four of the co-accused were tried in Ferozepur and three of them have been acquitted on the 22nd August. The fourth man who was alleged to have been the abettor has been sentenced to transportation for life. Now those two persons sent from here by way of exchange have been sending letters to their co-accused. They are at large and they can come back to India. I think the provisions now made will be able to give justice to them and they will be tried in the courts here.

But as regards the proviso, it says that if they are tried in Pakistan and convicted or acquitted, then the courts here will recognise the judgment as good. In the first place I do not think that the courts in Pakistan will have jurisdiction to try a prisoner of that sort. But even if the courts of this or that, country do get jurisdiction conferred by virtue fo certain measures, even then there will be no evidence there. The crime was not committed there, the evidence could not be had there and there can be no proper trial there. But what I object to very seriously is this. We cannot say all at once that if there is a trial in Pakistan we shall recognise it as good. It is a foreign government and in regard to foreign judgments the law is that if the judgment satisfies certain conditions then the courts in the country may recognise it: otherwise that judgment is of no substance in law. If it is held that the trial was good, that the conviction is regarded as good because the judgment is good, then there will be some justification in saying that because there has been a trial there, the trial is recognised as good. But we cannot beforehand say in respect of any judgment that the judgment would be regarded as good. Why should it be regarded as good at all. According to section 403 of the Cr. P. C. if there is a judgment ending in a conviction or acquittal, it is a bar to a second trial but a conviction or acquittal order of the Pakistan court has got no validity in India and therefore I would suggest that so far as this proviso is concerned it is neither necessary nor effective.

Mr. Naziruddin Ahmad: This clause leads to a large number of complications. The transfer of under-trial prisoners is arranged on a reciprocal basis. If we once agree that some under-trial prisoners of India should be sent to Pakistan and the corresponding under-trial prisoners from Pakistan be brought to India, we must also agree that the trials already held in India or in Pakistan of the exchanged prisoners must be held to be valid.

As to Pandit Bhargava's point that a foreign judgment is not effective, I quite agree. A judgment of Pakistan will not be admissible in India and similarly a judgment in India will not be admissible in Pakistan unless certain specific conditions are satisfied. It is on account of this state of the law that the present proviso tries to fill the gap. Unless there are reciprocal guarantees to accept as valid the judgments of the other Dominion the exchange of under-trial prisoners would be meaningless. That part of the proposed amendment seems to be good. If there is a trial in India or in Pakistan that should be respected by the other Dominion. The introduction of the terms as suggested by Pandit Bhargava namely, that the trial must be legal, would lead to complications. If there has been a trial it must be accepted as legal. These are transitional provisions to be exercised only once and for a short period only and these provisions will soon be spent. But the trouble to my mind is that a man who has committed an offence in India is partly tried and then he is transferred to Pakistan. What about the evidence that has already been taken. Will that be taken cognisance of by the Pakistan Court? Similarly if a man is partly

[Mr. Naziruddin Ahmad]
tried in Pakistan, can the evidence already taken, the charge-sheet and the framing of charges etc., can these be taken judicial notice of in Indian Courts? I think both the Dominions should make provision to accept that part of the proceedings which have already taken place as legal.

There are the questions of inconvenience which must be of necessity ignored in an international transaction like this. The real difficulty is the provision that a man who has been transferred from Pakistan can the tried in India by a Court having jurisdiction. That is the trial will be legal if the Court has jurisdiction. That begs the very question. The question is whether a man having been retransferred to India can be tried in a Court in India and whether the Court will have jurisdiction.

Mr. Speaker: We are not referring to prisoners from Pakistan. This clause refers to prisoners from India who are sent to Pakistan and who then return to India. I think the Honourable Minister might consider that the proviso does create difficulties, as pointed out by Pandit Thakur Das Bhargava. One of the main causes of the difficulty seems to be the want of confidence in the attitude of Pakistan towards a trial. That seems to be the chief point. In view of past events it is doubted as to whether any persons will really be tried with a desire to see that justice is done or there might to a sham trial and an acquittal. That seems to be the crux of the whole question.

There are also other incidental difficulties about evidence. In big trials for offences like murder, there cannot be evidence on commission for a satisfactory solution of the question as to whether the offence was committed or not. I was suggesting something different. Instead of having this proviso, the matter may be left to executive action. The Government is not bound to prosecute every man that returns to this country. If the Government is satisfied that, a particular person has escaped and come back here or has returned otherwise, it may prosecute him, if they are satisfied that he has not had any trial at all. Or they may not try him, if they find that there has been a good trial. The effect of the proviso will be that the Government is legally barred from having any trial even in cases where people have been let off after sham trials.

Shri Prabhu Dayal Himatsingka (West Bengal: General): That would be an encouragement to them to return.

Mr. Speaker: That is quite another matter.

The Honourable Shri N. Gopalaswami Ayyangar: Sir, my difficulty is that we are passing this legislation in pursuance of an agreement entered into with a sister dominion and I should not like the House to take up the attitude that it suspects that trials in the other Dominion might be sham trials and therefore we should have the right to try a man twice over for the same offence. That is what it amounts to. If we reserve a discretion to the executive government, then we shall have to go back upon the understandings we have arrived at with the other Dominion. The other Dominion has passed a law practically in the same terms, as we are proposing to do here, and if we are going to suggest that we can treat their trials and judgments as mere scraps of paper and that we will revive trials against persons who have been tried in the other Dominion, I think it would be difficult for us to carry out the understanding that we have arrived at after a good deal of negotiation and after the establishment of a certain amount of good feeling in solving a rather difficult problem. And therefore it seems to me that both on grounds of principle as between two independent states and as the result of negotiations which have come to fruition, we ought to recognise and accept trials in the other Dominion as having been *bona fide* and we shall have to respect such trials. After all, you have got to remember that the man who contravenes the provisions of sub-section (1) of section 8 com-

mits an offence by the very fact of that contravention and we have got the right to arrest him, prosecute him and sentence him to imprisonment not exceeding three years. We are only considering the further fact whether, if he had been an under-trial prisoner and had come back before the first trial in the other Dominion was over, he should not be allowed to escape the punishment which on a possible conviction he might have received for the offence which he originally committed in this Dominion. If the trial had been continued on the other side and had been brought to a legal conclusion we ought to accept that legal conclusion, however unsatisfactory it may be as regards the merits of the trial which was held or the verdict that was come to by the court in the other Dominion. I feel, Sir that this is a point of principle. This is a point of carrying out understandings with the other Dominion and I would earnestly entreat the House to let the proviso remain as it is.

Shri T. T. Krishnamachari (Madras: General): In view of the fact that the Honourable Minister feels strongly on this matter, may I ask whether there is any use in adding a sub-clause which will whittle down the rigor of sub-clause (1) of clause 8. If there is any lacuna in the clause, apparently this lacuna exists in the corresponding Act of Pakistan also. As such this need not be moved at all. I do not suppose that they have tried to remedy this lacuna.

Mr. Speaker: The substance of his speech is that this is now a question more or less of carrying out the agreement honourably and in a truthful spirit. Then I think there is no question of discussing this matter any further.

Pandit Thakur Das Bhargava: The point may perhaps be met if the word "properly" is added before the word "tried".

Mr. Speaker: "Tried" means properly tried.

Shri K. Santhanam: The sub-clause may be dropped. If the terms are identical in both the Acts as is the contention, we need not add this. They have passed an Ordinance which is identical with this Bill.

Pandit Thakur Das Bhargava: Where is that Act. Let us see that.

Shri K. Santhanam: The Honourable Minister has a copy.

Shri M. Ananthasayanam Ayyangar: In between the suggestions—to do away with the amendment itself and to drop the proviso—I think the amendment may be accepted in the circumstances. To give up what in substance is the amendment of Pandit Bhargava will mean that even though there was no trial, at least there must be a farce of a trial resulting in a discharge, acquittal or conviction—in which case again the jurisdiction of our courts will be barred. If however the amendment itself is taken out it will mean that as soon as they cross the border they will say "*Chalo, chodo*"; the men will come back here and the only punishment can be imprisonment for three years. It may be a case of murder. Under these circumstances let us do justice to both. Let us stand by the agreement to which our friends have been parties, though I know—and we have seen—that it is very often a case of one-way traffic only. There is no chance of the non-Muslims who have come from Pakistan going back to Pakistan. They would prefer to be in jail. Whether the provisions are stringent or loose does not make anything to them. But we stand by the honour of our people and of our Government. As it has entered into an agreement let us stand by it. I am in support of the amendment with the Proviso as has been moved by the mover of the amendment. I want it including the Proviso. The clause will then be much better than it would be without the amendment.

Mr. Speaker: The question is placed on a different footing altogether in view of what the Honourable Minister has stated. I shall put the amendment to the House.

[Mr. Speaker]

The question is:

"That after sub-clause (2) of Clause 8 of the Bill, the following be added as sub-clause (3):

'(3) If at the time of his transfer to Pakistan, the person contravening the provisions of subsection (1) was undergoing trial in any court in India for any offence, he shall, without prejudice to the provisions of sub-section (2), be liable to be tried for such offence by the same or any other court having jurisdiction:

Provided that if such person has before his return to India, been tried for the offence by a court of competent jurisdiction in Pakistan and convicted or acquitted of the offence, he shall not be liable to be tried again for the same offence by any court in India.'"

The motion was adopted.

Mr. Speaker: The question is:

"That clause 8, as amended, stand part of the Bill."

The motion was adopted.

Clause 8, as amended, was added to the Bill.

The Honourable Shri N. Gopalaswami Ayyangar: Sir, I beg to move:

"That in subclause (2) of clause 9 of the Bill, for the word 'place', the word 'prison' be substituted."

Mr. Speaker: Amendment moved:

"That in sub-clause (2) of clause 9 of the Bill, for the word 'place', the word 'prison' be substituted."

Shri K. Santhanam: I have two questions to ask of the Honourable Minister. What will be the nationality or domicile of these prisoners—because this will be necessary in matters connected with exchange of property. Will they be Indian nationals or persons of Indian domicile as soon as they are received in India by an Indian officer? Otherwise—if they continue to be Pakistan nationals—their properties will not come under the Exchange of Property agreements, and there will be the other consequences of Pakistan nationals being in our presence.

The next point on which I want information is whether they will have the right of criminal appeal and revision to Indian courts.

The Honourable Shri N. Gopalaswami Ayyangar: As regards the first point, these prisoners who come over to India from Pakistan will, as regards their properties in Pakistan, be in exactly the same position as non-prisoner refugees who have come over from the other Dominion. The property in the other Dominion is evacuee property—the properties left behind by prisoners will be evacuee properties.

With regard to the other point I have already explained that the East Punjab Act which will govern the disposal of the cases of these repatriated prisoners, will give them all the rights of appeal, revision and even the right to apply to the Provincial Government concerned for commutation, revision and reduction of punishments—which any ordinary prisoner in our own Dominion will have. That Act will govern their cases and therefore there is no curtailment of the rights of prisoners after they come here.

Mr. Speaker: The question is:

"That in sub-clause (2) of clause 9 of the Bill, for the word 'place', the word 'prison' be substituted."

The motion was adopted.

Shri V. S. Sarwate (Indore State): When prisoners having unexpired periods of sentences are transferred and received here, what will be the position. Would they be staying in prison here or would they be let loose?

The Honourable Shri N. Gopalaswami Ayyangar: Ordinarily the unexpired portion of their sentences will be executed by the prison authorities in this country unless the Provincial Government intervenes and remits the balance of the sentences and releases them.

Mr. Speaker: The question is:

"That clause 9, as amended, stand part of the Bill."

The motion was adopted.

Clause 9, as amended, was added to the Bill.

Clause 10 was added to the Bill.

The Honourable Shri N. Gopalaswami Ayyangar: I move:

"That sub-clause (3) of clause 1 of the Bill, be omitted."

This has been occasioned by the fact that as part of an arrangement which was entered into later on with Pakistan we have agreed to transfer all Muslim government employees who had opted for Pakistan but who have been detained in prisons here because of their having committed offences. These gentlemen are to be found all over the country and therefore it has become necessary for us to extend the Ordinance which is now in force, to the whole of India. The Act has therefore to apply to the whole of India. That is why sub-clause (3) which refers to bringing the Act into force has been proposed to be omitted.

Mr. Speaker: The question is:

"That sub-clause (3) of clause 1 of the Bill, be omitted."

The motion was adopted.

Mr. Nasiruddin Ahmad: Sir, I beg to move:

"That in sub-clause (1) of clause 1 of the Bill, for the words 'Exchange of Prisoners Act', the words 'Indo-Pakistan Exchange of Prisoners Act' be substituted."

Sir, this is only the substitution of a name.

Shri T. T. Krishnamachari: For what purpose?

Mr. Nasiruddin Ahmad: I shall explain the purpose at once. The name to be given to the Act is "The Exchange of Prisoners Act". But there is an exchange of prisoners between the two Dominions which are for all practical purposes two independent countries. In order to indicate the international character of this exchange of prisoners, it is necessary to indicate it in the name. "Indo-Pakistan" Exchange of Prisoners Act will indicate it very precisely. The name of an Act should give some indication of the purpose and scope of an Act. That is why I think it is a better name and one which would give a clear indication of the scope and the international character of the exchange.

The Honourable Shri N. Gopalaswami Ayyangar: I think the addition of the words is altogether unnecessary. I would prefer to retain the title as proposed in the Bill.

Mr. Nasiruddin Ahmad: Sir, then my amendment need not be put.

Mr. Speaker: The question is:

"That clause 1, as amended, stand part of the Bill."

The motion was adopted.

Clause 1, as amended, was added to the Bill.

Mr. Nasiruddin Ahmad: Sir, I beg to move:

"That for the long title of the Bill, the following be substituted:
'A Bill to give effect to an agreement between India and Pakistan for the exchange of certain classes of prisoners.'"

Sir, the long title in the Bill is really too long. I want to make the title short, but long enough to express the entire idea. You would be pleased to see, Sir, that the title is "A Bill to provide in pursuance of agreement with Pakistan for the exchange of prisoners for the transfer of certain prisoners from India to Pakistan and the reception in India of certain prisoners from Pakistan". All this can be shortly expressed by the expression: "A Bill to give effect to an agreement between India and Pakistan for the exchange of certain classes of prisoners". If we mention the word agreement, all the other necessary and incidental matters will be implied.

An Honourable Member: What about reception?

Mr. Nasiruddin Ahmad: Reception follows if there is an exchange of prisoners by an agreement. It is not necessary that in the long title all the provisions of the Bill should be fully stated. If we say "give effect to an agreement" that agreement is embodied, and its effect is embodied, in the Bill. So, I say this is short but long enough to express the whole idea.

The Honourable Shri N. Gopalaswami Ayyangar: Sir, of course I do not myself claim the authorship of this particular Preamble, but I see that the draftsmen who were responsible for it are fairly justified in giving this long title for the following reasons.

In the first place, there are other Acts. There is, for instance, in East Punjab the East Punjab Exchange of Prisoners Act, which originally provided both for transfer and reception on the one hand and for dealing with repatriated prisoners on the other—the two together went into that Act.

In the second place, to say that we are giving effect to an agreement in the Preamble may not be perfectly accurate for this reason that what we do say in this enactment is not the mere giving effect to the actual arrangements entered into—it is really to make provision for carrying into effect the arrangements that have been entered into. In doing so, it is quite possible that we have put into this Bill certain ancillary or consequential things which have not got actually embodied in the agreement itself. Not that I say that the arguments I have been advancing are altogether conclusive, but I should say that there is not enough argument on the other side to tinker with something which the draftsman has done in the usual course of his routine.

Mr. Speaker: Shall I put the amendment to the House?

Mr. Nasiruddin Ahmad: No, Sir.

Mr. Speaker: The question is:

"That the Title and the Preamble stand part of the Bill."

The motion was adopted.

The Title and the Preamble were added to the Bill.

The Honourable Shri N. Gopalaswami Ayyangar: Sir, I move:

"That the Bill, as amended, be passed."

Mr. Speaker: The question is:

"That the Bill, as amended, be passed."

The motion was adopted.

RESERVE BANK (TRANSFER TO PUBLIC OWNERSHIP) BILL

The Honourable Shri K. C. Neogy (Minister for Finance and Commerce): Sir, I beg to move:

"That the Bill to bring the share capital of the Reserve Bank of India into public ownership and to make consequential amendments in the Reserve Bank of India Act, 1934, be taken into consideration."

Circumstances have ordained that I should have the privilege of placing this motion before this honourable House. It is in the fitness of things that the first piece of legislation to bring about our ideas of nationalisation should relate to an institution which is really the pivot of the financial system of the country and on which to a very large extent depends the economic well-being of society.

Sir, the demand for nationalisation of the Reserve Bank is older than the Bank itself. I am one of those who, as Members of the Central Assembly of those days, have been advocating stateownership of the Central Bank of India ever since 1927 when the idea of a Central Bank was first mooted. It took several years for the Government of the day to arrive at a compromise with regard to this matter, and it was in 1933 that the constitution of a shareholders' Bank was placed on the Statute Book. It was a compromise measure, a compromise to which some of our leaders of the day were parties, and yet in the year 1933 we, a small band of what I described on that occasion to be a united minority, persisted in our attitude of opposition to the shareholders' Bank. I remember to have spoken in 1933 from a seat not very distant from the one that I am occupying today, leading a forlorn hope and fighting the idea of a shareholders' Bank. I apologise to this House for striking a personal note (*Shri M. Ananthasayanam Ayyangar*: "No harm") but I would not be human if I were not to be affected by the memory of those days and the fact that it has fallen to my lot to pilot this Bill in the sovereign Parliament of India today. (Hear, hear).

Sir, when the Reserve Bank of India was set up there were eleven other Stateowned Central Banks in the different parts of the world. Later, that is to say, after 1935, Canada, Denmark, New Zealand and Paraguay converted their Central banks from shareholders' bank into State-owned banks. Since the Second World War the process has been further accelerated and we have State Banks in Brazil, Rumania, Netherlands, Hungary, Bulgaria, Czechoslovakia, Norway and France, and to this list has been added the United Kingdom as the Bank of England was nationalised in the year 1945. The process is still continuing. We are therefore proceeding on perfectly sound lines today in adopting the measure which I have the honour to present to this House.

Sir, the demand for nationalisation naturally died down with the setting up of the Reserve Bank in 1935, and it was only about two years back when the Bill for the control of banking institutions, popularly known as the "Banking Bill" which is yet to be placed on the Statute Book, was under consideration, the demand for the nationalisation of the Reserve Bank was revived in a minute appended to the report of the Select Committee. Later, in the Central Legislative Assembly, a Resolution was moved in February 1947 asking for the nationalisation of the Reserve Bank and shortly after that, in the Budget speech of the then Finance Member the Government announced their decision to nationalise the Bank. On the 4th of February 1948, in reply to a question in this House, my predecessor made the announcement that the Government proposed to take steps to nationalise the Reserve Bank after

[Shri K. C. Neogy]

the 30th of September 1948 when it would cease to be the common banker for India and Pakistan. Pakistan having meanwhile set up its own Central bank with effect from the 1st July 1948 we are in a position to carry out that promise earlier than was anticipated. It is now intended that the new regime should come into being with effect from the 1st of January 1949, and as this will be the last opportunity which we will have in putting this measure through the legislature, I have to seek the indulgence of this House at the tag end of this session to take this Bill into consideration.

Sir, I do not think I need dwell upon any detailed provisions of the Bill. The Bill is a very simple one. It merely seeks to substitute State ownership for the shareholders' interests in the Bill and certain consequential amendments which are of a minimum character that would be required to be embodied in this Bill, subject to one or two other minor items, which have been incidentally brought up for consideration.

The House will observe that in clause 8 this transfer of the Bank's shares is provided for and there, incidentally, provision is made for the payment of compensation. Here I should like to pause and remind the House that the compensation provided for in this clause follows the assurance which was given by my predecessor on behalf of Government in the last session of the Assembly.

The only other provision which requires the attention of the House, to my mind, is that to be found in the Schedule, which contains the consequential amendments. I would, first of all, draw the attention of the House to the proposed substitution of a new clause for clause 7 of the present Act, which relates to management. This is really the most important provision of the Act as it indicates the character of the change that will take place in the management of the Bank and its relations with the Government of India. The clause reads as follows:

"The Central Government may from time to time give such directions to the Bank as it may, after consultation with the Governor of the Bank, consider necessary in the public interest. Subject to any such directions, the general superintendence and direction of the affairs and business of the Bank shall be entrusted to a Central Board of Directors which may exercise all powers and do all acts and things which may be exercised or done by the Bank . . . . . "etc.

Now, Sir, this provision closely follows the corresponding provision in the Bank of England Act of 1946.

May I, Sir, in this connection quote from the statement which the British Chancellor of the Exchequer made in support of a clause to this effect in the Bank of England Bill? This is what he said:

"In one aspect, this Bill only legalises the actual situation. The relations between the Bank of England and the Treasury have long been close, confidential—even intimate—and so they must continue. But this relationship has, until now, been factual rather than legal, and His Majesty's Government feel and the British people feel that the time has now come when these two parties—the old man of the Treasury and the old lady of Threadneedle Street—should be legally married. We should not like to think that there was any danger of their living in sin."

So, here again there has been the closest relationship between the Reserve Bank, particularly the Governor of the Reserve Bank and the Government of India, in the Finance Ministry. What we are seeking to do is merely to give a legal basis to that close and confidential relationship that has always subsisted between the Governor of the Reserve Bank and the Government of India.

Sir, I do not think that I need trouble the House with the other amendments, except to point out that in Section 17 I propose the substitution of the words "foreign exchange" for the word "sterling". A similar amendment also arises in subsequent sections, particularly Section 38. This is, in a way,

incidental to our membership of the International Monetary Fund and also to the amendment which has already been carried out to Sections 40 and 41 of the Reserve Bank of India Act. As a matter of fact, there is no reason why we should be confined to sterling securities for the purposes of maintaining assets of the Reserve Bank. The intention is that the Reserve Bank would be in a position to hold securities of any country which is a member of the International Monetary Fund and not be confined merely to sterling securities.

Sir, these are the principal provisions of the Bill, and I do hope that the House will find the Bill acceptable on the whole and that we will be able to dispose of this motion in a short time.

Sir, I am sorry that I shall have to move a few amendments myself. As a matter of fact, the idea was at one time to refer the Bill to a Select Committee. But for very many reasons, we have to trouble the House to take the Bill into consideration straightaway, and when the clauses come up I will have to propose a few amendments, which again I can assure the House are not of any substantial character.

Mr. Speaker: Motion moved:

"That the Bill to bring the share capital of the Reserve Bank of India into public ownership and to make consequential amendments in the Reserve Bank of India Act, 1934, be taken into consideration."

Before we proceed with this, I have just to intervene in respect of a matter which we discussed to some extent in the morning regarding extending the time of the sitting of the House.

I now have with me a list of Government business which must be put through and I have also taken into consideration the progress we are making on the Bills. I think we can meet all points of view, including mine, if we suspend the Question Hour for tomorrow and the day after.

Shri K. V. Kamath (C.P. and Berar: General): No, Sir.

Mr. Speaker: That will give us one hour more and tomorrow being private day, non-official Resolutions will be put down immediately after the election of the Deputy Speaker and other formal business. We shall stop the private business at four instead of at five. That gives full time to the private business and any important Resolutions may be discussed. Then we sit up to 5, breaking for half an hour up to 5-30 and continue for one hour more, till 6.30. If that is adjusted, I think, we shall get the longer time that is necessary.

Some Honourable Members: Yes, yes.

Mr. Speaker: I find some members are nodding against the suspension of the Question Hour. I may point out to them that, I look upon that hour as a most important hour, and perhaps a lively one. But honourable members will see that, out of the large number of questions that are put in, very few questions are effectively gone through and a larger number of questions go in as un-starred questions. I have always carried the feeling that for the supplementaries, we are not having the fullest benefit of the hour, because the supplementaries are so long and sometimes even ten minutes are taken and sometimes I have had to remind that ten minutes have passed. It is, therefore, that I am suggesting suspension to meet all points of view; it is not possible to meet every point of view fully and this is what I propose to do. Let us not have any discussion over that. I do not propose to have any. This is what I have decided and I find the House is substantially agreed.

सेठ गोविन्द दास : सभापति जी, मैं श्री नियोगी जी के इस बिल का स्वागत करता हूं। जिस तरह से नियोगी जी को बहुत सी पुरानी बातें इस बिल को पश करते हुए याद आ गईं उसी तरह से मुझे भी बहुत सी पुरानी बातें याद आ रही हैं। सबसे पहिले यह विचार सन् १९२६ ई० में आया था कि इम्पीरियल बैंक के सिवा हमको एक रिजर्व बैंक की जरूरत है। उस समय मैं कौंसिल आफ स्टेट का मेम्बर था। रुपये की क्या कीमत हो—१६ पेंस या १८ पेंस, हमारे देश में भी सोने की करन्सी हो जाय और इसके साथ रिजर्व बैंक यह तीनों बातें सर बेसिल ब्लेकट (Sir Basil Blackett) ने उस समय केंद्रीय असेम्बली के सामने उपस्थित की थीं। उस समय यह प्रश्न भी उठा कि यह बैंक शेयर होल्डरों (Shareholder's Bank) का हो या राष्ट्रीय। जहां तक मुझे याद पड़ता है सर० बेसिल ब्लेकेट की राय इस बैंक को शेयर होल्डर बैंक बनाने की नहीं थी। यद्यपि उनका स्तीफ़ा इस प्रश्न पर नहीं हुआ परन्तु उस समय यह चर्चा थी कि उनका स्तीफ़ा का प्रधान कारण यही है कि यह इस बैंक को राष्ट्रीय बैंक बनाना चाहते थे जो ब्रिटिश गवर्नमेंट को स्वीकार नहीं था। इसके बाद यह सवाल बहुत दिनों के लिए मुल्तवी हो गया और सर आर्ज़ शुष्टर के समय यह बैंक बनाया गया। उस समय भी जहां तक गैर सरकारी सदस्यों का सम्बन्ध था, वहां यही राय थी कि यह बैंक राष्ट्रीय हो। उस समय भी हमारे आज के माननीय मंत्री श्री० नियोगी जी भी इसी राय के थे कि यह बैंक सरकारी बैंक ही बनाया जाय। लेकिन यह बात नहीं मानी गई। जिस तरह से हमारी हर बात ठुकरा दी जाती थी उसी तरह से यह बात भी हमारी ठुकरा दी गयी और यह बैंक शेयर होल्डर बैंक बना दिया गया।

आज स्वतन्त्रता प्राप्ति के एक वर्ष बाद हम इस बैंक को राष्ट्रीय बैंक बना रहे हैं। जैसा कि अर्थ-मंत्री जी ने कहा कि जहां तक हमारा आर्थिक प्रश्न का सम्बन्ध है वहां तक हमारे आर्थिक प्रश्न संतोषजनक रूप से हल नहीं हो सकते जब तक कि यह बैंक सरकारी बैंक नहीं बना दिया जाता है। लेकिन इसके साथ मैं यह भी कहना चाहता हूं कि राष्ट्रीयकरण की जो भावना इस देश में है उसका यह आरम्भ मात्र ही है। आगे चलकर इस दिशा में और भी बहुत कुछ करना है।

जहां तक रिज़र्व बैंक का सम्बन्ध है अभी जो बिल हमारे सामने पेश है उसमें सिर्फ उसे राष्ट्रीय ही बनाने की बात की गई है लेकिन उसके राष्ट्रीय बनने के बाद बहुत से दूसरे सवाल उपस्थित होंगे। इन सब सवालों को हल करने के लिए हमें और भी कई बिल इस असेम्बली के सामने पेश करने होंगे। एक प्रश्न स्टर्लिंग बैलनसेज़ (Sterling Balances) का है। अभी हमारे स्टर्लिंग बैलेनसेज़ हमारे यहां नहीं हैं। वह विलायत में हैं। स्टर्लिंग बैलनसेज का सवाल बहुत दिनों से उठा है और रिज़र्व बैंक के राष्ट्रीयकरण के बाद यह सवाल सामान्य रूप से उपस्थित होता है कि हमारे स्टर्लिंग बैलनसेज़ कहां रहें। यदि हम अपने देश को स्वराज्य और पूर्ण स्वराज्य में देखना चाहते हैं तो हमारे रिज़र्व बैंक को ब्रिटिश गवर्नमेंट के

मातहत छोड़ नहीं रखा जा सकता। वह भी पूर्ण स्वाधीन बैंक होना चाहिये जिस तरह स्वाधीन देशों में एस बैंक होते हैं।

इस बिल में इस प्रश्न का हल किया गया है कि शेयर होल्डरों को उनके शेयरों का कितना रूपया दिया जाय। १०० रूपये के शेयर का रूपया १०० रूपया ही दिया जासकता तो मुझे विशेष हर्ष होता क्योंकि यदि हम रिजर्व बैंक के पुराने इतिहास को देखें तो हमको मालूम होगा कि ज्यादातर रिजर्व बैंक के शेयरों (Shares) का भाव १०३, १०४, और १०५ रहा है। एक समय वह, १५० के ऊपर चला गया था लेकिन बहुत थोड़े दिनों के लिए, लेकिन आज वह फिर घटकर ११३ हो गया है। इस सम्बन्ध में जो निर्णय किया गया है उसका मैं समर्थन करता हूं क्योंकि उस दिन के हमारे अर्थ मंत्री श्री० चेटी साहब ने कहा था कि एक वर्ष तक हर महीने की पहिली तारीख को शेयरों का जो भाव रहा है उसके अनुपात से उसकी औसत मिलाकर शेयर होलडरों को रुपया देना चाहिये और उसके अनुसार ११७ या ११८ के लगभग आता है। मैं समझता हूं कि सरकार की ओर से जो बात कह दी गई है उसी पर कायम रहना चाहिये। जनता को इस बात पर विश्वास रहा है कि सरकार ने जो कह दिया और जो नीति घोषित कर दी उस पर वह स्थिर रहती है। मैं इस बात को पसन्द करता कि १०० रूपया के शेयर का १०० रूपया ही दिया जाय खासकर इसलिए कि उसका भाव बहुत ऊंचा हमेशा नहीं रहा और हमारे शेयर होलडरों को बराबर ब्याज भी मिलता गया परन्तु सरकार की तरफ से चेटी साहब की घोषणा के कारण सरकार ने शेयरों की कीमत जो देनी निश्चय की है मैं समझता हूं वह उचित है।

अब रिजर्व बैंक के राष्ट्रीयकरण के बाद दूसरे अनेक आर्थिक मामलों का सवाल उठता है और मैं यह कहना चाहता हूं कि इन सवालों में इम्पीरियल बैंक का सवाल बहुत बड़ा सवाल है इस सम्बन्ध में भी नीति स्पष्ट हो चुकी है कि हमको इम्पीरियल बैंक का राष्ट्रीयकरण करना होगा। जब तक इम्पीरियल बैंक का राष्ट्रीयकरण नहीं हो जाता तबतक हम रिजर्व बैंक के राष्ट्रीयकरण करने का पूरा लाभ नहीं उठा सकते हैं।

जहां तक इम्पीरियल बैंक का सम्बन्ध है मुझे जो कुछ कहना है वह यह है कि इम्पीरियल बैंक सदा सरकार का लाडला पुत्र रहा है। मालूम नहीं क्यों ऐसा हुआ लेकिन शुरू से हमने वह देखा कि रिजर्व बैंक की स्थापना के पहिले और आज भी वही हाल है। हमको जितने भी शिड्यूलड बैंकस (Scheduled Banks) हैं सबको एक नजर से देखना होगा और सरकार का जो रूपया इम्पीरियल बैंक में जमा रहता है वह सब शिड्यूल बैंकों में समान रूप से रखना होगा। आज जो बैंक शिड्यूल हैं वह नाम मात्र के शिड्यूल हैं। उनको शिड्यूल मान लेने से उन्हें कोई बड़ा लाभ नहीं है। उनको शिड्यूल बैंक मानकर सरकार उन्हें जो सबसे बड़ा लाभ पहुंचा सकती है वह यह है कि इम्पीरियल बैंक को लाडला पुत्र मानना छोड़ कर दूसरे शिड्यूल बैंकों को उसी नजर से देखे और रिजर्व बैंक का ऐजन्ट इम्पीरियल बैंक ही न रह जाय। यह बात मैंने इम्पीरियल बैंक के

[सेठ गोविन्द दास]

विषय में इस समय इस लिये अर्ज कर दी कि रिजर्व बैंक और इम्पीरियल बैंक का आपस में बड़ा घनिष्ट सम्बन्ध है, और रिजर्व बैंक के राष्ट्रीयकरण के बाद इम्पीरियल बैंक का राष्ट्रीयकरण बहुत जल्द होना है। मुझे आशा है कि अर्थ मंत्री इस बात पर विचार करेंगे।

जैसा मैंने आरम्भ में कहा कि मुझे बड़ा हर्ष हो रहा है कि रिजर्व बैंक का राष्ट्रीयकरण हो रहा है और इस नीति को स्वराज्य के बाद आज हम अपना रहे हैं।

[At this stage, Mr. Speaker vacated the Chair, which was then occupied by Pandit Thakur Das Bhargava (one of the Panel of Chairmen)]

मैं आशा करता हूं कि जो बिल पेश हुआ है उसका सारे देश में स्वागत किया जावेगा और हमारे राष्ट्रीयकरण की जो नीति आरम्भ हो रही है वह दिन पर दिन बढ़ती जावेगी।

मैं माननीय अर्थ-मंत्री जी के इस बिल का जो उन्होंने इस भवन के सामने रखा है, हर्ष से समर्थन करता हूं।

(English translation of the above speech.)

Seth Govind Das (C.P. and Berar: General): Mr. Speaker, I welcome this Bill brought by Mr. Neogy. Just as Mr. Neogy has recollected many past events while presenting this Bill, similarly I am also recalling many such old things. The proposal to set up a Reserve Bank in addition to the Imperial Bank was first of all mooted in the year 1926. At that time I was a Member of the Council of State. What should be the value of our Rupee in terms of Sterling 16*d*. or 18*d*.; whether our country should also have gold currency and lastly whether a Reserve Bank should be set up—all these three things were brought before the Assembly by Sir Basil Blackett, the then Finance Member. At that time a question arose whether this should be a shareholders' Bank or State Bank. So far as I can recollect, Sir Basil Blackett did not favour the idea of making this a Shareholders' Bank. Although he did not tender his resignation for this very reason, yet it was rumoured at that time that the main cause of his resignation was that he wanted to make this Bank a national concern which was not approved by the British Government. After this, this question was deferred for a pretty long time, and this Bank was set up during the time of Sir George Schuster. It was then the unanimous opinion of non-official members that this Bank should be a national concern. At that time my honourable friend Mr. Neogy who is acting as the Finance Minister today was also of the opinion that this Bank should be a State Bank. This view also was not accepted, just as all our suggestions were turned down, this too met the same fate and this Bank was constituted as a Shareholders' Bank.

Today after one year of our having achieved independence, we are going to nationalize this Bank. As the Honourable the Finance Minister has stated so far as our economic problems are concerned, these cannot be satisfactorily tackled until and unless this Bank is nationalized. Along with this I would also like to say that this is only a step towards the feeling of nationalization that prevails in the country, and in future we have still got to do a lot in this direction.

So far as the Reserve Bank is concerned, the Bill which has just been brought before us only seeks to make it a State-owned institution. After its nationalization, many questions will arise. We will have to bring forward many other Bills on the floor of this House to solve these problems. One of the questions relates to Sterling Balances. At present our Sterling Balances are not held by us in this country. These are lying in the United Kingdom. The question of Sterling Balances has been engaging attention since long and after

the nationalization of the Reserve Bank, this question would naturally arise as to what happened to our Sterling Balances? If we desire our country to attain full freedom, we should not keep our Reserve Bank subordinate to the British Government. This Bank should be a sovereign body just as is the case with the banks in other free countries.

This Bill seeks to provide a solution of the problem as to the amount of compensation that should be paid to the shareholders for the acquisition of the shares held by them. It would have given me a genuine pleasure if a share-worth Rs. 100 could be acquired at par, because if we trace the past history of the Reserve Bank, then it would be observed that the selling price of its shares had remained more or less at Rs. 103, Rs. 104 and Rs. 105 per share. Sometime it shot upto Rs. 150 and more and this price ruled for a few days only—but today it has again come down to Rs. 118. I support the decision arrived at in regard to this matter because the then Finance Minister, Mr. Chetty had stated that compensation should be paid to the share-holders at an average rate calculated on the basis of the price of a share prevailing on the first day of each month during the preceding one year and according to these calculations it came to approximately Rs. 117 or Rs. 118. I feel we should stick to the commitment already made by the Government. The people have all along held the belief that the Government adheres to the statement made or the policy declared by it. So far as I am concerned, I would have appreciated if a share of Re. 100 is acquired at par especially in view of the fact that its price never remained very high and moreover our share-holders had been regularly in receipt of dividend accrued thereon. The rate which the Government have decided to pay for a share in view of the declaration made by Mr. Chetty on its behalf is quite reasonable.

Now after the nationalization of the Reserve Bank, we are confronted with many other economic problems, and I would like to say that of these problems the Imperial Bank is a major problem. The policy of nationalizing the Imperial Bank has already been elucidated and unless the Imperial Bank is not nationalized, we can not derive full benefit from the nationalization of the Reserve Bank.

The Imperial Bank has all along continued to be the pet child of the Government but I do not know the reasons for this. We find from its very inception that even before and after the formation of the Reserve Bank, the conditions are the same. We will have to treat all the scheduled banks similarly and the Government's money that is deposited in the Imperial Bank will have to be equally shared between all the Scheduled Banks. The present-day scheduled banks exist in name only. They do not derive any appreciable benefit for being 'scheduled banks'. The greatest benefit that the Government can bestow upon these banks consequent on their inclusion in the Schedule is that it should no longer treat the Imperial Bank as its pet child, and on the contrary assist all the scheduled banks in the country equally, and the Imperial Bank should not be allowed to function as the sole agent of the Reserve Bank. I have made this suggestion in regard to the Imperial Bank at this stage, as the Imperial Bank and the Reserve Bank are very closely associated with each other, and after the nationalization of the Reserve Bank the Imperial Bank should also be nationalized without any delay. I hope the Honourable the Finance Minister will consider this suggestion.

As stated at the outset, I am feeling great pleasure that the Reserve Bank is being nationalised and we are adopting this policy today after the attainment of independence.

[Seth Govind Das]

[At this stage, Mr. Speaker vacated the Chair, which was then occupied by Pandit Thakur Das Bhargava (one of the Panel of Chairmen).]

I hope that the Bill which has been presented will be welcomed throughout the length and breadth of the country and our policy of nationalization, a beginning in respect of which has just been made, will soon be adopted in other directions as well.

I heartily support this Bill which has been brought before this House by the Honourable Minister.

Mr. Hossain Imam (Bihar: Muslim): Mr. Chairman, Sir, I welcome this measure. It gives me great pleasure that after 15 years when, as a member of the Select Committee to which this Bill was referred, I along with eight others had signed a minute of dissent demanding a State Bank, it has been fulfilled. It is a sad thing that out of 14 members of the Upper House and the same number of members of the Lower House the Legislative Assembly, today, in this House there are only two members present: I from the Upper House and Mr. B. Das from the Legislative Assembly. Out of the 28 members who sat in the Select Committee, only two are left in this House. In the case of members also I do not think there are more than half a dozen of the old Legislative Assembly and Council of State who were present when that Bill was passed.

While I welcome this measure, I feel that while the marriage has been celebrated between the Reserve Bank and the Government of India, this illegal connection with the Sterling has been allowed to exist in the shape of sections 40 and 41, linking the Rupee to Sterling at a specific ratio. While everywhere the provision of Sterling has been avoided and foreign exchange has been substituted, that material section which affected the value of the Rupee has been left as it was. I do not, Sir, mean to say that there has been any disregard by the Government. What I wish to point out is that for the objective for which this Bill has been brought, that is, nationalisation, it is quite sufficient as it has been brought. But that does not end the affairs of the Reserve Bank and the country. What the country wants is a ratio which would be in the best interests of the country. I should like to remind the House of the reasons for which we adopted the 1s. 6d. ratio. It was then stated that we are not asking for any specific ratio, but we are accepting whatever was the then prevailing rate as a temporary measure. That temporary measure, Sir, has lasted for 15 years; that temporary measure has lasted for two years since the National Government has been in power. I think it is time that a final decision was taken on the subject, what is the ratio which we wish to have with the sterling and with the other countries. We have on the one side the example of Australia which has appreciated its currency.

Shri M. Ananthasayanam Ayyangar (Madras: General): Newzealand.

Mr. Hossain Imam: Newzealand also has appreciated its currency. I have got no specific idea to place before the Government. What I wish is that a temporary measure cannot last for 15 years. We must have some permanent measure, whatever may be in the best interests of the country. I am, Sir, one of those who believe in consultation and in examination. The matter should be examined from the point of view of the industrialists, from the point of view of the consumers and from the point of view of trade and commerce. Taking everything into consideration, we must come to a final decision on what should be the rate of exchange.

Similarly, Sir, I regret that the artificial valuation of gold which was provided for in the Reserve Bank Bill, in section 38, I think it was, should have been continued. The valuation of gold is purely artificial. That too does

not come under the purview of this Bill. This Act is for the specific purpose of nationalisation. I would therefore suggest that while it is quite all right, that the Bill is not being referred to a Select Committee now, I think it is necessary that a comprehensive Bill should be brought forward by the Government on the subject of the Nationalised Reserve Bank, that should be circulated, and referred to a Select Committee and finally decided in the course of a year or so. It is very necessary that, to maintain the dignity which India has acquired in the councils of the world, we must try to increase the production and trade of India. That can only happen if we have all the circumstances necessary for this. Banking plays a very important part and the need for a sound banking system of practice and law is so great that it is most essential that within a measurable time Government should find time to bring forward a comprehensive Bill to regulate all these things.

Shri B. Das: (Orissa: General): The House gave a mandate to the Finance Minister to nationalize the Reserve Bank. The interpretation of the Finance Ministry had been, as my honourable friend, Mr. Neogy read out, to bring the share capital of the Reserve Bank into public ownership. My honourable friend, Mr. Hossain Imam has pointed out that the House is not satisfied with the Bill. What the Government should do, what the Minister of Finance should do, is to appoint a Committee of this House and outside experts to see that the Reserve Bank becomes a real National Bank and not the hand-maiden of the Ministry. My honourable friend, Mr. Neogy, reminded us that you Mr. Chairman and I were the two of the Lieutenants in that small Democratic Party whose leader was Mr. Neogy that fought in this House against all the reactionaries that co-operated with the Simon Commission and the Round Table Conference and all those who wanted to obey the mandates of Whitehall. If we then had to accept this Reserve Bank Act, we had no alternative. We found that even the 1935 Act which was then framed, would not be framed without our considering and establishing the Reserve Bank: and that is how it came into existence.

My honourable friend, Mr. Neogy said that the Finance Ministry and the Reserve Bank of India should be married as the British Treasury and the Bank of England have been. I pity the Finance Ministry and I pity the Reserve Bank. The Reserve Bank had been the slave,—the maid of the old lady of Thread Needle Street—the Bank of England throughout the British Rule. It still remains misused maid-servant. Can Act No. 2 of Sterling Balances £600 millions in the Bank of England be operated and transferred elsewhere. I wish to hear it from Mr. Neogy that if he has the power today to take out that account from Bank of England and put it into the international monetary fund bank. Can he do it? Certainly not. The Reserve Bank is still subordinate to the Bank of England. If it is not, I do hope my honourable friend will direct the Bank of England to transfer those 600 million sterling to the international monetary fund bank in the United States of America. Sir, you may remember it as I am now quoting a passage from our old friend, Mr. Vidya Sagar Pandya, when the Joint Select Committee Report was being discussed in the old Legislature. He gave out a doggerel about Schuster and India. It runs:

> "So, of Schuster and Ind
> Mee may say without vapor,
> That he found it of gold,
> And left it of paper."

Sir George Schuster spirited away £150 millions of India's gold during his guardianship of the finances of India. What has happened thereafter? Everything has been spirited away except the £40 millions of gold that is lying

[Shri B. Das.]

fortunately in India. Sir George Schuster was a Jew and Sir Jeremy Raisman was another Jew. He looted the silver coins of India, the poor man's gold. Silver rupees, eight anna bits and four anna bits were all collected to meet the cost of the battle fronts of the victims of the United Kingdom. Hundreds of crores of rupees went away in this way. That is not the first occasion when a foreign Finance Member looted India's silver coin. Previous Finance Members on several occasions looted the silver currency reserve and used it as the Finance Member's pocket money. That money has yet to be accounted for. The poor man has no money of any value but the paper of Schuster and the nickle rupees occasionally circulated in the market do exist.

The Reserve Bank rightly functions like the slave of the Bank of England and the British Raj. The silver rupee was demonetised. The Indian coins Act was tampered with. The Reserve Bank having been in the past the absolute slave of the British Raj and the Bank of England, nothing of worth was left to us. Consequently I am not rejoicing that I am going to have a State Bank. I support it to the extent that I am for it as my friend Seth Govind Das, my honourable friend Mr. Neogy and my friend Mr. Hossain Imam has said in turn. At least we have the first genesis of a State Bank. But what was the complaint of the British Raj then? That "politicians" should not interfere with the Reserve Bank and yet it grew to be the slave of the Bank of England. It could only function as the slave of "one political party" —the British Raj, and it did function well in that capacity and I bear testimony to that. It was faithful and loyal to the Bank of England and the British Raj!

Now the question before the House is, how are we going to make this Reserve Bank into a National Bank. My honourable friend, Seth Govind Das has pointed out that the Imperial Bank of India is Enemy No. 2 of India. There were two enemies before August 15, 1947—the British Civil Service Enemy No. 1 and the Imperial Bank of India Enemy No. 2. If the Imperial Bank would have helped India, India's industries and trade would not have been in the sorry plight that it is in today. It helped every other Tom, Dick and Harry and every Britisher that came to India with £50 in his pocket and had £50,000 credited to him in the Imperial Bank. I may remind the House that the Imperial Bank was the combination of the three banks— the Banks of Madras, Bengal and Bombay, which were completely controlled by European traders and business men and it existed for them. Unfortunately in 1934 we joined the political dictators in the Indian Government and did not want to recognise the other Scheduled Banks. So the Imperial Bank was asked to have one hundred new Branches and to be the Treasurer of the British Raj and also of the Reserve Bank and continues to be the Bankers of the Central and Provincial Governments. Some of the members of the House must have read the speech of the old pattern Chairman of the Imperial Bank of India last month. What did he say? "We have done our best for Indianisation of officials of the Imperial Bank of whom Ninety-six are Indians and sixty-six are Europeans". Since I became a member of the Central Legislature in 1924, I have agitated that the Imperial Bank should be Indianised and now we find after it has become the custodian of tax payers' money, the representative of the Reserve Bank from 1934, that it still has got 66 European personnel. The Chairman says that the Imperial Bank is going to have another Deputy Governor and that he will be an Indian. Who wants a Deputy Governor of the Imperial Bank? The Imperial Bank should be nationalised. Every European on its staff should be sent away and the Governor must be appointed from the selected Indian personnel of the Reserve Bank.

As my honourable friends have already pointed out this is not a nationalisation measure. If it was so that particular clause—Section 45 on agency of

Imperial Bank should have been examined. There may be one or two European employees in one or two Scheduled banks in India today. Perhaps in the Bank of India there is a European manager: other banks are all managed by Indians. With all these Indian trained personnel in banking why should the Imperial Bank employ so many Britishers who have been carrying on the same tradition as the Bank of Madras, the Bank of Bengal and the Bank of Bombay since 1903.

I wish my honourable friend Mr. Neogy, though he is only the acting Finance Minister, who understands the feelings of this House and the nation, had said something about implication of section 54, regarding the agricultural credit department. You, Mr. Chairman, will remember how we spent days and days in arguing with the British rulers that they should do something through the Reserve Bank for agricultural credit. Nothing has been done. Only one young officer was appointed who is now occupying a very high place in the Reserve Bank. He was appointed to understand the subject of agricultural credit.

If this is a national or a state bank, no such bank should function only to subsidise the present Government in its policy of inflation by employing large number of staff in its secretariat and giving them high salaries month to month. That is not the function of a national Reserve Bank. Nor is it the only function of the Reserve Bank to supply the ways and means for expenditure of a Finance Minister. These are incidental matters. The Reserve Bank must raise the national prosperity and the national income. It has not been able to do it. It has been in the past a slave of the Bank of England. Mr. Neogy may give jewellery and ornaments and dress up this down trodden slave girl to be the national bank of India but it must acquire the free habits and vitality required of it. I do hope that the bank will function in the interest of India and at least 50 per cent. of its attention and opportunities will be devoted to the agricultural industry of India, so that the masses will prosper and not the few capitalists or industrialists or even the Government, or the Ministry here and there. Those are mere normal administrative matters.

What is to be done? The House of course must pass this measure. That is the first step but the first step is not the only step. The Honourable Finance Minister must declare that he will immediately appoint a committee to go into the question as to how the Reserve Bank should be nationalised and I want from him also a statement as to when the Imperial Bank is going to be nationalised. The Chairman of the Bank said that the Imperial Bank has been doing great work in the past for the English masters, that it has been doing work for Hyderabad and Pakistan and therefore it should not be nationalised. We do not agree. If it is not nationalised, will Government pass an ordinance today to take out all our resources and transfer them to other national banks, so that these enemies of India or rather the remnants of the enemies of India, the fifth columnist Englishmen that still control the Imperial Bank do not remain in India and work against the prosperity and national economy of India.

Sir, I will conclude by saying that Sir Basil Blackett who was a real friend of India wanted a state bank but vested interests were aligned against him and he had to resign and go away. It was the late Finance Minister, my very old friend Sjt. Shanmukham Chetty who drafted this Bill and gave the assurance on the floor of this House that he would nationalise the Reserve Bank. On account of certain circumstances which the House is well aware of, he had to go and nobody regrets it more than I that he is not here as the Finance Minister. However, I congratulate my old, old friend Mr. Neogy, the second national Finance Minister, to whose lot it has fallen to bring in this

[Shri B. Das]

piece of legislation as a first step towards the nationalisation of the Reserve Bank as the State Bank. I do hope that he will put the ceiling on this nationalisation policy in Banking and nationalise the Imperial Bank or do away with all associations with the Imperial Bank and also see that the Reserve Bank is freed from its slavery of the Bank of England and function as a national bank, of which we will be proud throughout our life as also the future generations of this country.

Shri Prabhu Dayal Himatsingka (West Bengal: General): Sir, I support the motion moved by my honourable friend the Finance Minister and in doing so I wish to draw his attention to certain facts. The Reserve Bank is the currency authority of this country. It also holds certain minimum deposits on behalf of the scheduled banks. It has certain statutory duties to perform. It also exercises certain rights of superintendence and giving instructions to various banks and as you must have noticed in the Bill that was going to be introduced for regulating banks, further powers are intended to be given to the Reserve Bank, so that it can influence and guide the other banks for the benefit of the country and also exercise a certain amount of control in regulating the investments for the good of the country and for the safety of the depositors and other persons interested in the bank. The Reserve Bank in spite of the fact that it was a share-holders' bank (it has ceased to be a shareholders' bank now) its policy was also guided by the Government as regards the profit; barring the 4 per cent. that was being given to the shareholders the excess over the 4 per cent. was going to the coffers of the State. Therefore not much difference will be made so far as the actual income is concerned but the present-day spirit needs that there should be a change and the word 'nationalisation' has a charm and that is why this is being done. I welcome this measure and I would invite the attention of the Honourable the Finance Minister to certain facts. Certain concerns like the railways and telephones in the big cities like Calcutta, Bombay and Madras have been nationalised and we all well know that after that the management has deteriorated. One thing that should be borne in mind is that the administration and the management should be such that the profits that were being earned by those concerns before they were nationalised should not be lost. After all the idea behind nationalisation is that instead of the profits going to the few—instead of their going to the shareholders—they should be made available for the good of the nation, for the State. If instead of the profits being continued to be earned by these concerns, which are going to be nationalised, the management becomes such that instead of making profits it begins to lose, I do not see how simply the transfer of ownership from private individuals to the State will benefit either the State or the country or anyone in the country. Therefore the one thing that Government should bear in mind is that the administration and the policy should be kept stable. Steps should be taken that with every change of government the policy of the Bank may not change. Suppose the present Government changes and another Government comes; with every change of government if the policy of the Bank also changes, the country is bound to go down hill, and God alone knows what the financial condition of the country might be. Therefore, steps should be taken so that the administration and the policy might be stable. And it must be such that it is used for the benefit of the country.

The only change sought by the present Bill is that the shareholders will go out and the Government become the shareholders. That necessarily will mean that there will be no election of Directors but the Government will be entitled to nominate Directors. In that connection also Government should see that the banks whose deposits will be in the Reserve Bank and who will have to deal with the Reserve Bank—the Reserve Bank will have to deal with

these Banks—have some representation in the Directorate. There must be some representation from either the Bankers Institutions of India or some institution which represents bankers and banks, and Federation of Commerce Chambers on the Directorate for giving expert advice. With these words I support the Bill and I welcome the measure.

Shri T. A. Ramalingam Chettiar (Madras: General): Mr. Chairman, Sir, I am glad the Government is taking charge of all the shares of the Reserve Bank. But by that alone it will not become national, in the sense that it will be useful or beneficial to the nation. If the Bank is going to be managed as it has been managed hitherto, the mere fact that the shares have been acquired by Government will make no change whatever, so far as the economy of the country is concerned. Unfortunately, the Reserve Bank has come in for a lot of criticism with reference to the way in which its affairs have been managed. For one thing it has been of no help whatever to the agricultural interests even though it was intended that those interests ought to be served, and there was a separate provision made that there should be an Agricultural Department attached to the Reserve Bank. The only way in which agriculture was helped was through the co-operative societies, and ever since the Reserve Bank was started there has been a tussle and a sort of continuing quarrel between the co-operative societies and the Reserve Bank with reference to almost every sort of help that can be expected in the interests of agriculture. Well, Sir, even after a lot of criticism was levelled against it and Government itself gave help to the agricultural interests, the little help that they can render may be exemplified by the sort of help that they have actually given even in this year of great demand, and also in spite of all the burden that co-operative societies have undertaken for procurement and sale of agricultural produce. The rules that have been framed with reference to this matter have enabled the Reserve Bank to give only Rs. 15 lakhs to one bank during the last year. And in my own Province, when we are advancing something like Rs. 20 crores for these purposes, all that the Reserve Bank could do was to give only Rs. 30 or 40 lakhs. That is the sort of help they are giving.. And the conditions they impose for the help they are rendering are something impossible to fulfil—it is not that there is no security or anything like that, but the other conditions which are imposed are so impossible to fulfil that the agricultural interests can get no sort of help from the Reserve Bank as it is conducted at the present moment.

With reference to the land mortgage banks also which were started in some of the Provinces, we had a continuing quarrel—not because the Reserve Bank was going to help us but because the Reserve Bank happened to be the advisers of the Provincial Government. They were so much out of touch with the requirements of the land mortgage banks and the requirements of the agriculturists that at every stage they were giving trouble and imposing conditions which made the working of the land mortgage banks very difficult indeed. I do hope that after the Government takes over the Reserve Bank the same sort of policy will not be continued. And I hope that the Government will see to it that this sort of policy that practically ignores the interests of the agricutural occupation—which is the biggest occupation in the country—will not be continued hereafter. It is with that view that I have tabled an amendment, namely that at least some representation may be given in the Central Board for co-operative societies and other interests. I do not know whether the Honourable Minister is going to accept that, but I can only say that in the interests of agriculture it is absolutely necessary that some representation ought to be given on the Central Board for the agricultural interests whether it be through the co-operative societies or otherwise.

[Shri T. A. Ramalingam Chettiar]

Again, the provisions of the Reserve Bank Act require modification in several respects. Especially sections 17 and 18 which govern the business for which help can be given by the Reserve Bank, require to be amended in the interests of the country and the interests of the small traders and agriculturists. At every turn, whenever any help is asked from the Reserve Bank, they always say under section 17 or 18 they are not in a position to help. That is the answer which always comes in. It is not as if I want any business principles should be avoided or that they should lend money without security or that they should take any risks. But the procedure that is followed and the way in which things are done ought to be liberalised. Unless they are liberalised, nothing can be done.

For instance recently, after a lot of agitation had been carried on all over India and several resolutions had been passed at the Registrar's Conference and in other places, the Reserve Bank agreed to lend some help to the agricultural interests through co-operative societies. The result within the last two years has been this. They promised to give to my Province of Madras—which is supposed to be advanced in co-operation—about Rs. 40 lakhs subject to conditions most of which it is not possible to fulfil. It is not a question of our not being able to get the money. As a matter of fact I was advising the co-operative societies in Madras not to go to the Reserve Bank at all because the way in which they were dealing with us was most unsympathetic. Without their help we can get on. But it is only for the purpose of creating some sort of connection between the Reserve Bank and ourselves that we took about Rs. 50 lakhs this year.

That is the sort of thing that has been going on. I do want the Honourable Minister in charge of Finance to look into the actual working of this Bank and also to the provisions of the Act and the Rules which are framed under it and see that the present state of affairs do not continue and the Bank will be what it is intended to be—a National Bank, working in the interests of agriculturists and other people in the country and to the benefit of the country as a whole.

Shri T. T. Krishnamachari (Madras: General): Mr. Chairman, Sir, I rise to support the motion before the House. In doing so, I would like to tell the House that this move was pressed upon the Government by the members of my Party not as a measure which in itself would produce the expected millenium, but as a step which is primarily necessary before the Imperial Bank could be nationalised. Therefore, Sir, this innocuous measure before us represents only a very little portion of what we have in mind in order to advance the monetary interests that have to be served in this country.

Sir, I heard with considerable interest the speech of my friend from Coimbatore, Mr. Chettiyar. His experience in co-operative banking entitles him to a great deal of respect. I am sorry to see that he was condemning the Reserve Bank management outright. I am no advocate of those in charge of the Reserve Bank today, but I would not be fair to the present Governor of the Reserve Bank if I did not enter a caveat against the statements of my honourable friend Mr. Chettiyar. Sir, that the Reserve Bank Act was imperfect was realised by everybody. As the House seems to be in a mood to become reminiscential, I would also follow suit and say that in 1938 during a time of a banking crisis, in Madras when I had the pleasure or privilege of meeting Sir James Taylor the then Governor, I was able to extract from him an admission that the Reserve Bank as it then stood was not better than the amalgamation of the Currency Office of the Government of India and the public debt office of the Imperial Bank of India.

Sir, a number of things have to be done before a Central Bank, apart from

its other duties in regard to controlling note issue and determining the monetary policy of the Government, could effectively function. One of the things that was necessary was that there should be agricultural warehouses all over the country, supported by a proper Public Warehouses Act which would enable warehouse receipts to be negotiated as Bills and enable Banks lend thereon. I am sure my honourable friend Mr. Chettiyar realises that the present Governor, the moment he took charge, had prepared a draft Bill and circulated it to various institutions interested in public warehousing, but nothing has been done about it for the reason that we had a foreign Government all along and even that foreign Government was so pre-occupied with war effort that they had no time for anything else.

But, to go back to where I began. We were not very particular that the Reserve Bank should be immediately nationalised because we were fully aware that the control exercised by the Government of India over the Reserve Bank was adequate and complete. But the primary object was that we should have a State Bank which could cover the entire country which obviously a Reserve Bank cannot, which would do the functions of the Reserve Bank which my honourable friend Mr. Chettiyar wants, for the agriculturists. We felt there was no institution better fitted for that purpose than the Imperial Bank of India provided we made it a State Bank, which would enter the commercial field as also help the agriculturists and also act as an agent of the Reserve Bank all over the country besides providing increased banking amenities to the people, which only a State Bank can do irrespective of the one *sine qua non* whether a particular Branch will be paying or not. Sir, it is with that idea in view that we in the Party wanted that the Reserve Bank should be nationalised and the Imperial Bank should be nationalised simultaneously.

Sir, I cannot blame my honourable friend Mr. K. C. Neogy who is doing the thankless work of a stop-gap for the time being in piloting this Bill. When the Bill is passed, it is one good work done. But it is not half, not even a quarter, not even a tenth of the work that has to be done. Why the Government had not followed up their assurance given on the floor of this House on the 4th February last and taken on hand the work of converting the Imperial Bank of India into a nationalised Bank I do not know, but I would like to utter this word of warning to my honourable friend the present Finance Minister and his successor to be, that this country would not accept any excuses from the Government if the Government do not bring forward a measure to nationalise the Imperial Bank before the next Session of this Assembly. Sir, I would anticipate some of the excuses that might be put forward though I am sure my honourable friend would not put them forward. They are: that the Imperial Bank happens to be an institution with its Branches in Pakistan, with its Branches in Burma and in Ceylon. It has got one Branch in Ceylon, one Branch is functioning in Burma and 12 in Pakistan—few of them are functioning and they are not wanted in that country now. It is therefore surprising that eminent industrialists should come forward with a protest against any attempt to nationalise this eminently foreign institution, the Imperial Bank of India. I do hope, Sir, that the Government will realise that while we are thankful that this Bill has been brought forward we do not feel that it adequately meets the situation. It is only a preliminary, a necessary preliminary, to the nationalisation of the Imperial Bank. If the Imperial Bank is nationalised, I think the bulk of the charges that people like my honourable friend Mr. Chettiyar level against the inaction on the part of the Reserve Bank will then disappear; the Imperial Bank could take up that role and even manage

[Shri T. T. Krishnamachari]

all the agricultural warehouses which are necessary to increase banking facilities and so on. So, while I welcome this measure I want to repeat that we want Government to produce before this House a Bill to nationalise the Imperial Bank of India before long.

One or two matters in regard to this particular Bill which would require amendment, I would deal with at the appropriate time. but I would have the House to understand this particular fact that we are merely altering one aspect of the Reserve Bank now, *viz.*, that we shall have the share capital transferred to Government, the Directors should be Government nominees. But in doing so, I would like to draw the attention of the Government to the practice that is being followed in regard to the Bank of England. I had an opportunity of meeting some of the Directors of the Bank of England during my recent visit to that country. The Government, though an absolute socialist Government, has tried to keep the contour of the Bank very much intact. They have introduced a number of new Directors, new blood so to say, but the older element amongst the Directors that is anxious to help the Government and help the economy of the country is kept intact, and that would be a policy which would be worthwhile following so long as the Government get complete co-operation from this class of Directors. Of coorse, if the co-operation is not forthcoming, there will be no object in insisting on experienced people of the older type being kept only being as nominated Directors.

One amendment to which I would like to refer now is this. In the English Act there is no condition attached—excepting in regard to other occupations, the Directors might have, like being Members of Parliament and all that—in regard to the tenure of office as Directors. The House will realise that in a country like England where there is a plethora of talent, they have not sought to put any limitation in regard to the tenure of office of these Directors. Limiting the term of office of any particular person in authority is a democratic method of ensuring that no man gets a grip over a particular institution, but need we carry it into the Reserve Bank of India, and do we have in this country enough of talent in order to throw away one or two useful people who would probably help the Government in carrying on the work as Adviser to the Reserve Bank of India? I do not know why that clause has been put which limits the tenure of office of the Directors to one of two terms. After all, the choice in regard to a particular person and the continuance of that person as a Director is entirely vested in the hands of the Finance Minister of India, whoever he may be, and if a person is not found suitable and if other persons are available, a change could undoubtedly be made, but for that contingency, I do not see why we should put in the Statute a sort of provision which will tie the hands of the Government and thereby prevent them from making the very best use of the best talent available in this country. It is one of the important amendments which I thought I would bring to the notice of the House at the appropriate time. Barring that, I see that the provisions need not be interfered with at the moment, though there are very many provisions which would probably need amendment, revision and complete recasting later on when we have leisure and we have also brought the Imperial Bank of India in line with the Reserve Bank and we have a proper banking Statute which will enable us to take a comprehensive picture of the entire banking situation in the country and its needs. At the moment, I feel that the Bill as it is should suffice.

चौधरी रणबीर सिंह : माननीय अध्यक्ष महोदय, मैं इस बिल का स्वागत करते हुए माननीय मंत्री से यह नम्र निवेदन करना चाहता हूं कि भारत देश एक कृषि प्रधान देश है और अब तक का राष्ट्रीयकरण करने के पश्चात् भी यदि कृषि को बढ़ावा नहीं दिया गया, खेती की उन्नति के लिये

नीति इस्तेमाल नहीं की गई तो मैं तो यही कहूंगा कि यह बैंक राष्ट्रीय बैंक कहलाने का मुस्तहक नहीं रहेगा। खेती का बढ़ावा या कृषि को बढ़ावा किस तरह से दिया जा सकता है, इस सिलसिले में मैं अपने दो तीन नम्र निवेदन करना चाहता हूं। कल परसों का ही जिक्र है कि हमारे ईस्ट पंजाब के प्रधान मंत्री, डाक्टर गोपीचन्द साहब, यहां आये हुए थे। उनकी बातचीत के दौरान में उन्होंने हमें बताया कि सेंटर (Centre) के प्रधान मंत्री की तरफ से या किसी और मंत्री की तरफ से कोई पत्र उनके पास भेजा गया है जिसके अन्दर यह जाहिर किया गया है कि अगर पंजाब के अन्दर जमींदारी को अबालिश (abolish) करना है, तो इसके लिये वह रुपया खुद तलाश करें। आप जानते हैं कि ईस्ट पंजाब का सूबा एक गरीब सूबा है। यह इस जमींदारी सिस्टम को अबालिश करने का खर्चा तो दूर रहा, अपने खर्च चलाने के लिये भी रुपया हासिल नहीं कर सकता। खेती को बढ़ावा किस तरह दिया जा सकता है इस सम्बन्ध में मेरा सब से पहला नम्र निवेदन यही है कि नेशनलाइजेशन आफ लैंड (nationalization of land) के लिये यह राष्ट्रीय बैंक ज्यादा से ज्यादा रुपया दे।

मेरा दूसरा नम्र निवेदन यह है कि जहां कहीं खेती मैकेनाईज्ड (mechanized) हो सकती हो वहां खेती को मैकेनाईज्ड (mechanized) करने के लिये ज्यादा से ज्यादा रुपया दिये जाने की नीति बनाई जाय और इस काम के लिये ज्यादा से ज्यादा रुपया दिया जाय।

इस सिलसिले में मेरा तीसरा निवेदन यह है कि अभी कुछ चन्द दिन पहले ही इस हाउस में एक बड़ी गर्म और बड़ी जोरदार बहस अनाज की महंगाई और दूसरी चीजों की महंगाई के बारे में हुई थी। मैं इस सिलसिले में यह नम्र निवेदन करना चाहता हूं कि आप चने का ही मामला लीजिये। चना हिसार जिले में, जो यहां से १०० मील है, पांच रुपया मन पर बिका। किसान को वहां उसके लिये ज्यादा से ज्यादा पांच रुपया मन मिला होगा और महीने के अन्दर उसी वक्त वह ५० रुपये मन बिक रहा था। इसी तरह से दिल्ली से रोहतक मुश्किल से ४४ मील है। रोहतक में गेहूं के लिये किसान को मुश्किल से १३ या १४ रुपया मन मिले। आज वही गेहूं दिल्ली में २०, २२ और २३ रुपया मन पर भी मुश्किल से मिलता है। इस सिलसिले में मैं यह समझता हूं कि यह बैंक इस तरह से मददगार हो सकता है कि जो कोआपरेटिव दूकानें हों उनको वह ज्यादा से ज्यादा रुपया दे ताकि जो मिडिल मैन हैं जिनकी वजह से देश के अन्दर एक किस्म का हाहाकार मचा हुआ है, वह हट जाय। लोगों का ख्याल है कि किसान लूट रहे हैं। लेकिन जैसा मैंने आपको अभी बताया किसानों को तो उतना रुपया भी नहीं मिलता जितना कि वह आज अनाज पैदा करने पर खर्च करते हैं। इसलिये कोआपरेटिव शाप्स (Co-operative Shops) को ज्यादा से ज्यादा बढ़ाने के लिये नीति बनाई जाय और इनको बढ़ावा दिया जाय ताकि किसानों को उनसे पूरा पूरा लाभ मिल सके और देश को भी लाभ मिल सके।

एक मेरा नम्र निवेदन यह है कि यह बैंक इस किस्म की नीति जल्दी से जल्दी बनावे कि कोआपरेटिव मैकेनाईज्ड फार्मिंग (Co-operative mechanised farming) को बढ़ावा दिया जा सके।

Dr. B. Pattabhi Sitaramayya: On a point of order, Sir. In order to save time, will it not be proper strictly to limit the discussion to the nationalisation aspect? These are extraneous points, which of course are very useful, but they may come in their own time.

Mr. Nasiruddin Ahmad: Particularly because this is an amending Bill and its scope is very limited.

चौधरी रणवीर सिंह Certainly. मेरी बड़ी इच्छा थी कि मैं कुछ कहता, लेकिन कायदे और कानून की वजह से मैं उस सिलसिले में ज्यादा बात नहीं कहते हुए एक और चीज की तरफ भी आपका ध्यान दिलाना चाहता हूं। वह यह है कि नेशनेलाइजेशन (nationalization) होने के बाद आप कोआपरेटिव इंडस्ट्रीज (Co-operative Industries) को ज्यादा से ज्यादा बढ़ावा दें।

अब मैं हाउस का ज्यादा समय नहीं लेना चाहता और इस बिल का स्वागत करते हुए भाषण को समाप्त करता हूं।

(English translation of the above speech.)

Ch. Ranbir Singh (East Punjab: General): Mr. Chairman, while welcoming this Bill, I would like to make a respectful submission to the Honourable Minister that India is predominantly an agricultural country, and even if after the nationalisation of this Bank, no policy is implemented for the development of Agriculture, I venture to say that this Bank does not deserve to be called a State Bank. Respectfully, I would like to make one or two suggestions in regard to the manner in which agriculture can be developed. It is only a few days ago when the East Punjab Premier, Dr. Gopichand Bhargava was here. During the course of a talk, he told us that a letter had been received by him either from the Honourable the Prime Minister or any other Minister at the Centre stating that if it was desired to abolish the Zamindari system in the Punjab, then it was upto the Provincial Government to provide money for this purpose. You are aware of the fact that the East Punjab is a poor province. What to say of finding money for the abolition of this Zamindari system, it cannot even get adequate funds to meet its expenses? As regards the manner in which agriculture can be developed, my first submission is that this Bank should assist in advancing the largest possible amount of money for the nationalisation of land. Secondly, plans should be formulated for giving money to the maximum extent possible for undertaking mechanized cultivation at places where this is feasible.

Thirdly, I may submit that only a few days ago, a heated and lively discussion took place in this House in regard to the soaring prices of foodgrains and other commodities. In this connection I would request you to take the case of gram which may sold in our district which is situated at a distance of 100 miles from this place at Rs. 5 per maund. There the cultivator might have received for this commodity Rs. 5 per maund at the most, but at the same time it was being sold in Madras at Rs. 50 per maund. Similar is the case with Rohtak which is situated at a distance of about 44 miles from Delhi. In Rohtak, the cultivator was hardly paid Rs. 13 or 14 per maund for his wheat. Today this commodity is not readily available in Delhi even at a price of Rs. 20, 22 or 23 per maund. I feel that this Bank can only prove useful if it helps the Co-operative shops by giving them the largest possible amount of money to enable them to provide relief to the middle-classes

in whose behalf there is so much hue and cry in the country. People think that the cultivators are robbing, but just as I have informed you the peasants are not even able to realize the same amount they have to spend on the production of the foodgrains. Plans should therefore be drawn up for the expansion of the Co-operative shops to the largest extent possible so that the peasants as well as the country may be able to derive the maximum benefit out of these.

Another submission which I have to make is that this Bank should forthwith adopt a policy for the development of Co-operative mechanised farming.

Dr. B. Pattabhi Sitaramayya (Madras: General): On a point of order, Sir. In order to save time, will it not be proper strictly to limit the discussion to the nationalisation aspect? These are extraneous points, which of course are very useful, but they may come in their own time.

Mr. Nasiruddin Ahmad (West Bengal: General): Particularly because this is an amending Bill and its scope is very limited.

Ch. Ranbir Singh: Certainly. I wanted to say something more but having regard to the rules and regulations and without further discussing this matter, I would like to stress that after the nationalization, you should encourage the co-operative industries as far as possible. I do not now want to take any more time of the House, and while welcoming this Bill, resume my seat.

Prof. Shibban Lal Saksena (U.P.: General): Sir. I join the chorus of congratulations which have been showered on my honourable friend, the Minister for Finance. Today we are laying the foundation of the nationalisation of industries for which we have fought on so many occasions in this House. I hope our new Finance Minister will not follow the policy of mixed economy, but he will try to go forward and nationalise all the industries and particularly the key industries one by one now that he has begun with the nationalisation of the Reserve Bank. My friends have given the history of the nationalisation of this Bank from 1927 onwards and the Honourable Minister himself was pleased to give us an idea of the labour which he devoted for the dawning of this day which has at last dawned today. Today shall go down as a red letter day in the history of this country when this most important institution in the country is being nationalised. I have read the speeches and the proceedings of the House of Commons when the Bank of England was nationalised and I have seen what a controversy it raised and yet with what courage the Labour Government got it through and now I am sure our industries, such as coal and steel and other key industries will also be nationalised very soon. I therefore think that this Bill is a precursor of all nationalisation that is going to follow, particularly of the main key industries. I also think that the other banks and particularly the Imperial Bank should also be nationalised. Recently in a gathering of distinguished industrialist, grave apprehension was expressed at the prospect of the nationalisation of the Imperial Bank. I am sure our Government which had the courage to nationalise the Reserve Bank will also take measures to nationalise the Imperial Bank immediately after and will not be deterred by the cries of industrialists who want everything to go in the old, old way. Today probably we are faced with the greatest crisis in our country on account of the economic situation and inflation. I hope this nationalisation and all that it connotes will help us in tiding over that crisis. I am sure that once this Bank is nationalised, the hands of the Executive will be very much strengthened in carrying through other measures. I do not want to take much time of the House and I do not want to discuss the clauses of the Bill, but I do feel that the compensation could have been less and I agree with the amendment that my honourable friend, Prof. Shah has given that the shares should be compensated at a lesser price than has been offered. I also think in the interest of curbing inflation, when we want that money should be frozen, we

[Prof. Shibban Lal Saksena]

should not give such a heavy compensation as we have offered to give. It is now for many years that the shareholders have enjoyed large dividends and we do not want that at the time of nationalising the concern we should give them such huge compensation. Sir, I think that after nationalisation of the Reserve Bank, we shall soon go for nationalising the Imperial Bank also, because the Honourable Mr. Chetty did give us a promise that the Imperial Bank will also be nationalised. At the fag end of the session, we cannot have the nationalisation of the Imperial Bank Bill discussed here, still I hope in the Budget Session that shall be the first measure that we shall pass. I hope the Honourable the Finance Minister will have the credit of piloting that Bill also in the House and he will earn the gratitude of this country for having placed such a measure on the Statute Book. I heartily commend this Bill and I support it.

Shri K. Santhanam (Madras: General): I do not want to go into the details of the Bill. But there is one point to which I attach great importance. The present Bill is a Bill for nationalisation, but even more than nationalisation the question of relieving the currency from the domination of Sterling and consequently with the Bank of England and this is a matter of far greater importance. To some extent this has been achieved by our membership of the International Monetary Bank and the consequent release from the obligation to give sterling for rupees and *Vice versa*. Still there are many traces in the Reserve Bank Act of India which preserve the old domination of sterling and continues it even though we have achieved political freedom. I think one of the most offensive clauses is Section 33(2) which provides "all the total amount of the assets in the Issue Department of the Reserve Bank, not less than 2/5th shall consist of gold coin, gold bullion or sterling securities" and there is a proviso which says "provided that the amount of gold coin, and gold bullion have stood where they were before". We have gone through the second World War and we all know how owing to the operation of this provision and the other provision regarding compulsory exchange of sterling into rupees, our entire reserve in the Issue Department has become sterling. We cannot get rid of it quickly nor do I want to get rid of it anyhow, but I think it is altogether wrong for a national bank of India to say that we shall in all cases keep 2/5th of our reserves in foreign exchange. The Bank of England does not keep a single rupee as its reserve, nor does it keep a single dollar as its reserve. It is content to live on its own integrity and keep only securities of its own Government and of its own nationals as the reserve. That is also the case with every other self-respecting national bank, but why is our Reserve Bank compelled to do it? I do not mind it keeping it voluntarily because of national necessities, but being statutorily compelled to keep 2/5th of its reserve in gold bullion or foreign exchange and in practice it will mean foreign exchange and which further will become.....

The Honourable Shri K. C. Neogy: It will perhaps help the House if I point out that this particular point is sought to be made in an amendment which I propose in this very Bill.

The amendment is that sterling securities should be substituted by foreign securities.

Shri K. Santhanam: My objection is to foreign exchange also because in the same way as we are today the slave of sterling, we will become the slave of foreign exchange. Supposing you give 2/5th in foreign exchange, there may be de-valuation; they may freeze every foreign exchange. I would like the Honourable the Finance Minister to point out any other bank which says that part of the reserves of their national bank shall be in foreign exchange. I do not mind if you increase the gold, if you add silver and whatever will be in your country will be under your control, but I do not want to put a national institution the control of which will be a foreign agency. I say this is wrong.

I suggest that the Finance Minister should take the earliest step to get rid of these obligations. This is a most non-national, an anti-national obligation to which I want to draw the attention of the House. I do not want to take more time and I hope this particular objection of the section will be removed as early as possible.

Mr. Chairman: I want to put the motion before the House before we adjourn.

The Honourable Shri K. C. Neogy: At this hour, I do not propose to detain the House for very many minutes. Most of the criticisms, if I may say so without offence, are somewhat irrelevant to the Bill before the House. The Bill is strictly limited to the object of bringing the share capital of the Reserve Bank of India into public ownership and to make consequential amendments in that connection. I quite admit that the Reserve Bank Act deserves to be subjected to a comprehensive scrutiny with a view to a comprehensive amendment thereof, from many points of view.

A good deal of criticism has been made of the failure of the Government so far to bring forward any proposal for the nationalisation of the Imperial Bank of India. I know what importance the House attaches to that particular question. All I can say is that the matter is engaging the active attention of the Government. My predecessor in a statement which he made some time ago, I think it was on 4th March 1948, said "The Government accept the policy of nationalisation of the Imperial Bank of India. But as the Bank has branches outside India, the Government propose to examine carefully the various questions that would arise in connection with nationalisation of the Bank before the policy is implemented". I have nothing to add to that statement. As a matter of fact, the proposition is so complicated that I am afraid it will take some little time for the Government to be able to come forward with any concrete proposals.

Shri T. T. Krishnamachari: May I ask whether the Honourable Minister will give an assurance that he will straightaway appoint an officer on special duty for the purpose of devising measures to nationalise the Imperial Bank?

The Honourable Shri K. C. Neogy: I do not know, there may be some officer whose main attention is engaged on this question. Whatever it is, I am prepared to give an assurance that every possible step would be taken for the purpose of accelerating the process of the consideration of this question.

Seth Govind Das: If the Honourable Minister gives way, I shall ask only one question. Is it expected that by the next session of the Assembly, something concrete would be done in this respect and some Bill would be brought forward in this House? This assurance was given by the then Finance Minister in March 1948.

Dr. B. Pattabhi Sitaramayya: May I raise a point of order, Sir? This question is irrelevant to the question of the nationalisation of the Reserve Bank. I am sorry the Honourable Minister himself has fallen into the trap set for him and to prolong the discussion on this aspect would be mere waste of time.

Mr. Chairman: That is not a point of order. The Honourable Minister may proceed.

The Honourable Shri K. C. Neogy: I am not in a position to give a categorical assurance as desired by my honourable friend. As far as I can see, no assurance of any kind was given by my predecessor as to the time that would be taken for the purpose of bringing forward such a measure. I entirely agree that this is irrelevant to the present issue; but I felt that the House, at least some of the members who have spoken, would be extremely unhappy unless some assurance was given on this particular point. I was rather surprised to find my honourable friend Mr. Hossain Imam making a statement as regards the subservience of the Rupee to the Sterling. As a matter of fact,

[Shri K. C. Neogy]

sections 40 and 41 of the Reserve Bank Act were suitably amended some time ago in 1947 and the particular subservience that he has in mind has been abolished. It is not obligatory on the part of the Reserve Bank either to sell or buy sterling as required under the old Sections.

My honourable friend Mr. Himatsingka very rightly stressed one aspect of the matter. He wanted to be assured that the administration would not deteriorate as a result of nationalisation. I can give him that assurance without any qualification. I may tell you that although the frame-work of the administrative authority is being changed, we would see to it that the Reserve Bank of India continues to function as a fully autonomous body and that the counsels of the different interests which find representation at the present moment through election on the management, would still be available to it, although the institution is being nationalised.

My honourable friend Mr. T. T. Krishnamachari also perhaps had that in mind when he said that the contour of the Bank should be kept in tact. I have no hesitation in giving that assurance to him as well, and further, that business principles would, as far as possible, govern the administration of this Bank subject to the instructions which the Government may have to give to it in pursuance of any general policy.

Now, I do not think that my honourable friend Mr. Santhanam should have been so exercised over that particular clause that requires the holding of foreign securities as part of the assets of the Bank. Apart from other reasons, as a result of our membership of the International Monetary Fund, we are expected to maintain foreign securities to an extent. That creates confidence. Now, the question whether a minimum should be prescribed in this behalf is another proposition.

Shri K. Santhanam: May I know whether there is any specific provision in the International Monetary Fund to that effect?

The Honourable Shri K. C. Neogy: Not at all; but it is expected of us, so as to strengthen our reserves. As regards the minimum proportion, that is a different matter altogether. I should like to have some time to consider this point. I may say at the moment it is, not merely that this minimum is maintained, but that it is sometimes very nearly 50 per cent. of the assets of the Bank that are maintained in the securities mentioned in this particular clause.

Shri T. T. Krishnamachari: It was 90 per cent.; it is not so now; it is cut down by 280 crores.

The Honourable Shri K. C. Neogy: The minimum fixed is two-fifths. As a matter of fact, it represents much more of the assets today. If anything turns upon this particular minimum being maintained, it will have to be examined.

Last of all, I want to repeat that this is a measure which is limited, very strictly limited, to the issue of nationalisation. I can assure the House that the Government would at the earliest possible moment take up this particular Act for the purpose of a complete revision so that any suitable measure that may be necessary for the purpose of carrying out the further amendments and the further improvements either in the working of the Bank or otherwise may be undertaken by way of legislation. That is all I have to say.

Mr. Chairman: The question is:

"That the Bill to bring the share capital of the Reserve Bank of India into public ownership and to make consequential amendments in the Reserve Bank of India Act, 1934, be taken into consideration."

The motion was adopted.

The Assembly then adjourned till a Quarter to Eleven of the Clock on Friday the 3rd September 1948.